



# THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW + MUSIC

## Beef on bone ban must stay, says health chief

By COLIN BROWN and CHARLES ARTHUR

HOPES FOR an early end to the beef-on-the-bone ban have been dashed by the new Chief Medical Officer, who has warned ministers that unbanned beef could still pass "human BSE" to the public.

Professor Liam Donaldson's report to the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, will come as a serious blow to the beef industry, which was struggling to regain its £500m export market after the ending last November of the European Union's ban on British beef.

Professor Donaldson's recommendation also presents a test of strength for Mr Brown, who has the final say on whether to continue the ban imposed 13 months ago. A decision by Mr Brown to lift the ban would echo the worst behaviour of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in the BSE crisis earlier this decade, when it frequently rode roughshod over Department of Health recommendations.

Professor Donaldson, who was appointed in September, warns that there is still a danger of maternal transmission of BSE from cow to calf, and recommends that no immediate moves are made to lift the ban on sales of beef on the bone. He concludes that although the present risk from eating unbanned beef is near zero, lifting the ban would introduce a risk, which he could not countenance.

In the past three years, 35 people in Britain have died of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, believed to have been caused by eating BSE-infected food. Most of the victims have been under 40, and scientists suggest that the source of the infection was food eaten before various offals were excluded from food in 1990. Nobody knows how many people will eventually succumb to the fatal disease.

The beef-on-the-bone ban was introduced in December 1997 after the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) reported that



British butchers will still not be allowed to sell T-bone steaks, as the ban on selling beef on the bone is set to stay. David Rose

there was a very small risk of infection through the nervous tissues, called dorsal root ganglia, in the spinal column of joints of beef on the bone. But the committee did not directly recommend the ban: "Among our recommendations was to do nothing," one member insisted last night.

Professor Donaldson's more cautious approach has delighted Whitehall critics of MAFF, which had threatened to shelve the proposal for an independent Food Standards Agency until it was rescued by the intervention of Tony Blair. Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House, said last night that a draft Bill to set up the agency will be published next Wednesday.

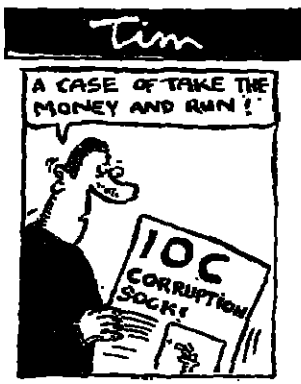
The Bill will allow a flat charge of about £2 a week to be raised for its running costs from 600,000 food outlets. It should reach the statute book in July, around the time that the BSE inquiry is due to deliver its findings.

Professor Donaldson's report will be seen as evidence that he will be a champion for consumers' safety against pressure from the farming lobby, and that the Government is serious about tackling the MAFF influence over food safety. In future, he will report to the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency.

The Chief Medical Officer's latest advice is not, however, based on any new scientific evidence. Seac met last week but the continuation of the ban was not discussed. The committee last considered the matter in December, after which Sir John Pattison, its chairman, said any decision about continuing the ban should be "based on the science" - which suggested that the initially small risk had shrunk further. Ministers have yet to agree

## IOC members 'took £70,000' each in vote for games site

By DAVID USBORNE and RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Nagano



SOME MEMBERS of the International Olympic Committee received payments of more than £70,000 each to vote for Salt Lake City as the 2002 Winter Games venue, it was revealed yesterday.

The IOC vice-president, Dick Pound, told *The Washington Post* that there "is solid, irrefutable evidence" that at least a dozen IOC members or their relatives received cash, gifts or donations from members of the Salt Lake bid committee. Some benefits totalled in excess of \$100,000, he suggested.

"When you see it in black and white, it's pretty blatant stuff, so I don't think the people involved are going to be able to explain it away. But we'll see," Mr Pound said. He is conducting the inquiry by the IOC into corruption allegations. His report will be released in Lausanne on Sunday, and the IOC is expected to recommend the expulsion of between eight and sixteen members.

Yesterday it was announced that Utah's attorney general has begun yet another inquiry into Salt Lake City's bid - the fifth official investigation into the corruption allegations.

The ripples from the Utah probe have now spread to other cities that were previous hosts to the Olympics. Officials in Nagano, Japan, revealed that records of its bid for 1998 Winter Olympics had been incinerated, and the IOC has agreed to give up its tax-exempt status in Switzerland because of the scandal.

The Utah affair first erupted before Christmas with word of murky contributions and scholarships given to IOC

members shortly before they were to vote on the site of the 2002 Olympics at a meeting in Budapest in 1995. The allegations have brought humiliation to Salt Lake City, a mountain metropolis usually associated with the Mormon Church. The US Justice Department may also bring charges.

Details emerged yesterday of lavish hospitality given by Nagano to IOC members in 1991 when it was lobbying for the Winter Games of two years ago. Entertainment extended to members included helicopter rides and lavish dinners with geisha girls in attendance. Among many gifts distributed was an oil painting by a famous Japanese artist worth £16,200 given to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC, sources said. Mr Samaranch, however, is exempt from rules limiting the value of gifts, because he is not a voting member. The painting is now hanging on the wall of IOC headquarters, a committee spokesman said yesterday.

To pre-empt any suspicion of bribery in Sydney's successful pitch for next year's summer Games, the state of New South Wales will today release Olympics contracts that had been classified as secret.

## Lib Dems' pact with Blair is falling apart

By ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown were struggling last night to keep alive their policy of closer co-operation between their parties after the Liberal Democrat leader's decision to resign. Although they insisted Mr Ashdown's departure would not affect their strategy, senior figures in both parties said privately that it was now in jeopardy.

Cabinet heavyweights who oppose closer relations, including Jack Straw and John Prescott, believe Mr Ashdown's resignation has finally buried any prospect of Mr Blair calling a referendum on electoral reform before the general election. Plans to extend

the remit of the Cabinet committee of senior Liberal Democrats and Labour ministers will run into the sand. The leaders had hoped it would discuss the single currency and welfare reform. Mr Blair's critics believe that relations with Labour will dominate the leadership contest. A Blairite minister admitted Mr Ashdown's decision was "bad news", adding: "Tony may have to pull back; he cannot be so far out in front of his party on every issue."

Yesterday Mr Blair told the Cabinet that co-operation with the Liberal Democrats would continue. Earlier he said: "People want a different party politics today. They don't want parties stuck in rigid tribal boundaries."

But Gordon Prentice, Labour MP for Pendle, warned: "We've got this incredible schizophrenic attitude towards them [the Liberal Democrats] where we can fight them on the ground and here at Westminster we are developing policy jointly with them. That cannot survive Paddy Ashdown's departure."

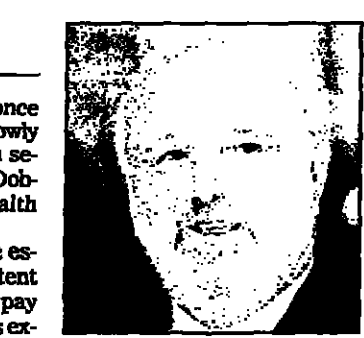
## Viagra rules limit sex to once a week on NHS

By JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

THE NHS will pay for sex once a week - but only for a narrowly defined group of men with serious disabilities, Frank Dobson, the 58-year-old Health Secretary, announced.

The vast majority of the estimated two million impotent men in Britain will have to pay privately for Viagra, which is expected to cost £26 a pill from chemists, under prescribing guidelines issued yesterday. Even those who qualify for it on the NHS will be rationed to a maximum of one pill a week.

The decision, which also affects all other impotence treatments that have been freely available without limit on the NHS up to now, outraged doc-



Frank Dobson: Rationing

tors, who condemned it as "cruel and unethical". For the first time it has brought the rationing of NHS treatment, which ministers have consistently denied takes place, under the spotlight.

The British Medical Association told GPs to defy the Gov-

ernment and prescribe Viagra to patients in clinical need until the guidelines take effect in six weeks - raising the prospect that thousands of men will get the pills, only to have them withdrawn later. The BMA said it was unacceptable to discriminate among patients, because the same condition had different causes.

Mr Dobson acknowledged the decision had been made on financial grounds, becoming the first health minister openly to admit rationing a drug on the NHS, but said priority had to be given to treatment of cancer and mental illness.

Mr Dobson challenged the BMA to come up with other ways of prescribing Viagra to all without the high costs.

Why doctors are angry, page 2

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Austria	40.00 Sch	Cyprus	1.20 CY	Finland	18.00 FM	Gibraltar	20.00 GIB	Ireland	12.00 IRL	Malta	0.65c	Norway	26.00 NOK	Spain	325 Ptas	Taiwan	1,250.000 TW
Belgium	90 BF	Czech Republic	112 K	France	16.00 FF	Greenland	700 Dk	Italy	3,000 L	Norway	5.50 Nkr	Portugal	350 Esc	Sweden	23.00 SKr	USA	\$3.50





















Paddy Ashdown catches up with coverage of his resignation yesterday before appearing on GMTV John Voos

# Call for unity as election kicks off

THE RACE to succeed Paddy Ashdown as Liberal Democrat leader began yesterday despite his attempts to ban campaigning until he stands down in June.

Some senior party members are worried that Mr Ashdown's surprise announcement will create six months of turmoil and distract the party from the May elections to local authorities, the Scottish and Welsh assemblies and the European Parliament poll, which will be Mr Ashdown's swansong.

The Liberal Democrats are urgently drawing up a code of conduct for candidates in the hope of avoiding a damaging display of disunity which could reduce their election prospects.

Baroness Maddock, the party president, who will oversee the election, will urge MPs not to criticise each other or appear together on television and

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Correspondent

radio programmes, so they cannot be portrayed as rivals.

Potential candidates will be told not to declare their intention to run "formally or informally" until Mr Ashdown has stood down. "We cannot afford the distraction of electioneering for the leadership while the campaign for this year's crucial elections is in progress," said Lady Maddock.

But it was clear yesterday it will be difficult for the Liberal Democrats to hold the line, as "friends" of the candidates eagerly talked up their chances so as not to be stuck in the starting blocks in June.

Some were critical of Mr Ashdown for leaving a six-month vacuum. "I don't understand why he could not have announced his decision as soon

## BETTING LIST

LIB-DEM LEADERSHIP		
	William Hill	Ladbrokes
Charles Kennedy	evens	4-5
Nick Harvey	7-2	4-1
Simon Hughes	4-1	5-2
Menzies Campbell	3-1	7-1
Malcolm Bruce	20-1	14-1
Maureen Taylor	20-1	12-1
Alan Beith	33-1	20-1
Paul Tyler	33-1	20-1

as the Euro elections were over," said one potential leadership candidate. "We don't need a six-month campaign."

It emerged yesterday that Mr Ashdown's successor may not be elected by the party's 90,000 members until September. Officials believe there may not be enough time to run a contest between the Euro poll in June and the August summer break. The new leader would then have a "coronation" at the party's annual conference at Harrogate in September.

The Liberal Democrat spring conference, in Edinburgh in March, will inevitably become a "beauty contest" for the candidates. "The important thing is that they don't overtly fight each other, which would damage the party," said one party source.

Only two weeks ago, Mr Ashdown's aides dismissed speculation that he might be forced to resign this year by saying he believed there was no capable

candidate ready to take over. "We are not exactly blessed with a galaxy of stars," one insider admitted last night.

This could strengthen the claims of Menzies Campbell, at 58 the oldest of the potential runners, who might well offer his services as the man to take the party through the next general election, allowing younger pretenders to win more spurs.

One MP said the "smart money" was on Mr Campbell because he would appeal to MPs elected in 1997 who might also be reluctant to back a younger man.

Mr Campbell, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, was doing nothing to discourage speculation that he would run yesterday. Although close to Mr Ashdown, he said that, while the Liberal Democrats would continue to co-operate with the Government where they agreed, they opposed it for not spending enough on health and education. Nick Harvey, the campaigns chief who is seen as Mr Ashdown's favoured successor, said the agreement with Labour would survive but not in exactly the same way because "the personal chemistry is obviously a considerable part of it".

Simon Hughes, the only contender who voted against Mr Ashdown's decision to forge closer links with Mr Blair last November, admitted he had "fallen out" with his leader over the policy.

## Still a hero to Tinkers Bubble folk

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

IN A damp wood a mile or two up the valley from Paddy Ashdown's house, Bob Baehr was coppicing hazel trees. "Yes, I'll be sorry to him go," said Mr Baehr, offering a mug of home-pressed apple juice. "I think he is a popular person - people around here like him."

The alternative community at Tinkers Bubble, near Norton sub Hamdon in Somerset, has good reason to like Paddy too. When they sought planning permission to build naturally resourced homes on the 40-acre site they bought six years ago, Mr Ashdown was a key supporter. He may not have been as vocal as they would have liked during the row that ran for years, but he made clear he could see nothing wrong with an alternative community living off the land - even if it was in his own back yard. "The other Christmas he came up here with a bottle of wine for us," said Mr Baehr. "He walked up from his house on the Christmas morning. He never slugged us off and was always friendly. The impression he gives is of a straight-up guy. He talks sense. People like that about him."

These are opinions you hear often in Yeovil when you ask about Paddy Ashdown. He was in his late 30s when he took over as their Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate, holding surgeries and writing to government departments and other institutions when he believed one of his "constituents" had been wronged.

This boundless enthusiasm attracted many people. Others liked his action-man image. In 1983 he won what was a safe Tory seat for the Liberals - a seat he holds with a majority of 11,403. "He is going to be very difficult to replace as the MP," said Roger Baker, mayor of Yeovil. "He has worked very hard in the constituency. He has found it more difficult because he's been the leader... but he's still done a lot."

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer, a Liberal Democrat peer and former leader of the district council, said: "The constituency is going to be really sad."

Mr Ashdown's experiences with Yeovil have not all been good. In 1996 his car was fire-bombed outside his house. A year earlier he was attacked by a man with a knife while he was walking the town with a vicar, assessing levels of racism.

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Corporal Tim Lakin

# How in k mo star

COMPLIMENTS have been paid over the release of two and four Dutch hostages snatched last week by Taliban.

The kidnappers are demanding the release of members of their tribe. But they will not be freed until the payment of money. The families of the victims in Yemen are demanding the killers' execution under tribal law.

The hostages are being treated and there is no threat to their lives according to reports from negotiators.

Meanwhile an exodus is beginning among the 500 British community in Y half of whom work for oil companies. The Foreign Office advised British nationals in Yemen to consider whether their presence is absolutely essential and, if not, to leave the country as soon as possible. It points out that 11 members of the group that killed hostages - three Britons

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# Chippe chimp

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, 61, a famous circus trainer, kept a baby chimpanzee in "fearful despair", an animal expert said yesterday.

Dr Jane Goodall said a month-old animal, called Y, had been caged in an "utterly inappropriate fashion" at a training quarters near Dover in Hampshire.

Ms Chipperfield, 61, and her husband Roger Cawley, 28, animal cruelty charges at Croft Farm, Middle Wallop.

Undercover activists and Animal Defenders infiltrated Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd last year and shot 800 hours of secret videos.

Dr Goodall had watched the chimpanzee appear to be beaten and forced to spend 14 hours a day in a cramped cage where it was to spend 14 hours a day. She said: "That young chimp has been put through con





Corporal Tim Lake, of the Princess's of Wales Own Regiment, standing guard as Fort Whiterock is demolished

Crispin Rodwell

## Symbol of Ulster's Troubles is razed

THE BIG wrecking cranes are busy at Fort Whiterock in west Belfast, slowly, methodically and with permission doing what the IRA tried so hard to do for so many years: razing the army outpost.

By summer there should be nothing left except level ground and a couple of disused buildings to mark the spot where for two decades soldiers ate, slept and led a perilous existence on the edge of Western Europe's most dangerous districts.

Fort Whiterock has since 1979 been perched on the lower slopes of the Black Mountain, overlooking the Falls and the rest of west Belfast, the sentries in its hi-tech turrets on the lookout for attack. Its soldiers have been sent out into the dangerous streets of Ballymurphy, New Barnsley and Turf Lodge, where numbers of them were killed and injured. It was a patrolling base, a heavily fortified installation nesting near the republican estates.

Its closure is a result of the

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

Good Friday Agreement, which envisages a gradual rundown of security if the republican and loyalist ceasefires hold. The IRA may show no sign of decommissioning its weapons, but the military presence is being gently wound down.

But there are still plenty of big army and RUC bases in Northern Ireland. While Fort Whiterock is being dismantled, the Army says other patrolling bases are available to it. Routine patrolling is now pretty much confined to some border difficult areas: troops are no longer generally seen in Belfast and elsewhere.

Demolition of such a base is a lengthy business, for large amounts of concrete and metal were needed to keep the IRA at bay. When *The Independent* visited six years ago, most of its four-and-a-half acres were protected by a superstructure consisting of miles of protective

scaffolding to fend off mortars and other projectiles. Yesterday most of this had been reduced to heaps of struts and girders waiting to be carted away.

Only a few military traces remain: a poster warning "Keep your eyes peeled"; a King's Own Scottish Borderers logo; a flaking picture of a lion painted by a Highland regiment.

The cranes will soon be demolishing the mess area, where the canteen was crisscrossed with brick walls to limit casualties from bomb blasts. Then will go the spartan accommodation blocks where men slept six to a noisy room, the rooms branching off long, echoing corridors.

Those corridors were yesterday irresistibly reminiscent, in their concrete walls and institutional paint, of another security installation, the Maze prison. It too is heading for closure as the prisoners, like the troops, are being sent home, in the hope that this time the Troubles really are ending.

## Hostages in blood money stand-off

COMPLICATIONS have arisen over the release of two British and four Dutch hostages kidnapped last week by Yemeni tribesmen.

The kidnappers are demanding the release of two members of their tribe being held in jail on a murder charge. But they will not be freed unless agreement can be reached with the family of their alleged victim over the payment of "blood money" as compensation, Yemeni sources say.

Eddie and Mary Rosser, British aid workers, were taken hostage with Hans Koolstra, his wife and two children, by members of the Bakhil tribal federation who stopped their car on the road between the capital Sanaa and Sada.

Negotiations broke down earlier in the week over the question of the release of two members of the tribe held for murder. The families of murder victims in Yemen normally demand the killers' execution unless they are paid compensation under tribal law.

The hostages are being well-treated and there is no immediate threat to their safety, according to reports from the negotiators.

Meanwhile an exodus is beginning among the 500-strong British community in Yemen, half of whom work for oil companies. The Foreign Office has advised British nationals in Yemen "to consider whether their presence is absolutely essential and, if not, to leave". It points out that 11 members of the group that killed four hostages - three Britons and

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Sanaa

one Australian - on 28 December are still at large.

The new Foreign Office advice says those who remain in Yemen should review their security arrangements and "avoid all travel on roads outside the main towns". The oil companies provide armed guards for their employees and, in some cases, have forbidden them even to visit downtown Sanaa or big hotels such as the Taj Sheba and the Sheraton, where foreigners congregate.

British exports to Yemen were only £77m in 1998 and there are no British companies with large staffs in the country. While British tourists do visit Yemen, most tourism is from Italy, Germany and France.

Other foreign embassies in Sanaa were taking a more relaxed view. One west European diplomat said: "Maybe the British have perceived that they are targets and are in a different position from ourselves."

Although there have been three different kidnappings involving British citizens since late December it is unclear if they are being deliberately selected. In the most recent cases, the evidence is that they were not. The oil worker John Brooke was taken hostage on 9 January when he challenged a man who had entered the company compound. The kidnappers who ambushed Mr and Mrs Rosser were apparently intent on taking prisoner the first foreigners they saw.

## Chipperfield kept chimp 'in fear'

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, the famed circus trainer, kept a baby chimpanzee in "fear and despair", an animal expert told a court yesterday.

Dr Jane Goodall said an 18-month-old animal, called Trudy, had been caged in an "utterly inappropriate fashion" at a winter training quarters near Andover in Hampshire.

Ms Chipperfield, 61, and her husband Roger Cawley, 64, deny 28 animal cruelty charges at Croft Farm, Middle Wallop.

Undercover activists from Animal Defenders infiltrated Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd last year and shot 800 hours of secret videos.

Dr Goodall had watched film of the chimpanzee apparently being beaten and forced into a cramped cage where it was said to spend 14 hours a day.

She said: "That young chimp has been put through consid-

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

erable trauma and to leave her there in a cage by herself, hurting and frightened, that to me is very cruel. The chimp was being treated in a way which I would describe as very cruel."

Dr Goodall helps to run four sanctuaries for orphaned chimpanzees in Africa.

The trial continues.

In Wednesday's *Independent* we wrongly stated that Richard Chipperfield, who was attacked by a tiger in Florida last year, was Mary Chipperfield's son. Neither Richard Chipperfield nor Nigel Wesson, whose arm was bitten off by a tiger last year, is connected with Mary Chipperfield. We have been asked to make it clear that Chipperfield Circus, run by Chipperfield Enterprises Limited, has no business connection with Mary Chipperfield.

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the thwarted MP blinked with feigned amazement and looked around for support. If the House had been full he would have been rewarded with pantomime "oooohh!" but yesterday, not a murmur. The only relief from the proceedings lay in counting the number of times Liberal Democrats were teased about their prospects in the impending leadership campaign.

Already weary of this limited joke, Dr Harris expressed the hope that honourable members would soon become bored with it too. I fear he has greatly underestimated his colleagues' heroic capacity to withstand tedium.

In a BBC television programme, *How to be a Home Secretary*, to be shown on Sunday, Mr Straw professed his confidence in the security service. He was "pretty happy" about the way the service was run, adding that he had regular meetings with the director-general Stephen Lander.

## No conflict

STEPS HAVE been taken to ensure there was no conflict of interest for junior trade and industry minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville. Trade Secretary Stephen Byers said, after Tories demanded to take responsibility for policy on genetically modified food away from him because he had stakes in companies involved in

Alferton, Alton (Fourmades), Barnsey, Barton Mills, Bedford (South West), Bedworth, Blyth, Bognor Regis (Fontwell), Burton in Kendal, Burton South, Canterbury, North, Chester (Ironbridge Hall), Cook, Doncaster, Dumfries Deane, Edinburgh East, Exeter, Feering (Colchester), Grantham (New Fox), Grantham North, Grantham South, Halkyn, Hellingly, Hull (South Cave), Ipswich (Beacon Hill), Kilmacomb, Kinross, Uppot, Little Hampton, Ludlow, Manchester North, Manmota, Newcastle, North, North Muskham, Northampton (Upson Way), Okehampton East, Okehampton West, Oxford, Pinnerfield (Barnsdale), Raby, Sheffield, Seaford, Stanchouse, Sutton Scotney North, Sutton Scotney South, Taunton, Thetford, Thrapston, Tiverton, Wainfleet, Wellingsborough, Warkup, Wrexham, Yeovil (Podimore).

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A REMAND prisoner who was allegedly run over in his cell while watching a rented video of a death row inmate being taken to the gas chamber. The coroner at the inquest yesterday expressed concern that inmates were not allowed to watch films of other prisoners awaiting execution.

Michael Artiss, 37, of Doncaster prison, was seen watching *The Chamber* on video based on a John Grisham novel. Mr Artiss



# Diana inquiry officially ended

THE JUDICIAL investigation of the accident that killed Diana, Princess of Wales will be declared officially over today.

But decisions on who - if anyone - should be prosecuted for their part in events before and after the accident beneath the Place de l'Alma nearly 17 months ago will not be made for several weeks.

In only the second public statement since the inquiry began, the public prosecutor's office in Paris is expected to announce that Judge Hervé Stéphan has completed his investigations. The dossier, including interviews with 153 witnesses and potential witnesses, and the most exhaustive technical examination done on a wrecked car in France, runs to more than 50,000 pages.

Leaks earlier this month suggested that Judge Stéphan had decided nobody should be prosecuted for actions leading to the crash but that three members of the pursuing press pack should be accused of failing to help the victims. Sources say these leaks were faulty, based on official documents presented to the investigation, not the conclusions.

The length and costs of the inquiry - estimated at £5m - have provoked controversy in Britain and France. But Judge Stéphan was said to be determined to lay to rest every rumour, innuendo and speculative report before he finished. His report is expected to reject flatly any suggestion that the crash early on 31 August was not an accident.

Most of the blame is likely to fall on the driver, Henri Paul, who had been drinking heavily and taking anti-depressant drugs. Mr Paul and Diana's

By JOHN LUCHFIELD  
in Paris

companion, Dodi Fayed, died instantly when their armoured Mercedes - which Mr Paul was not qualified to drive - spun out of control and hit the 13th pillar of a narrow, twisting underpass. Diana died later from her injuries.

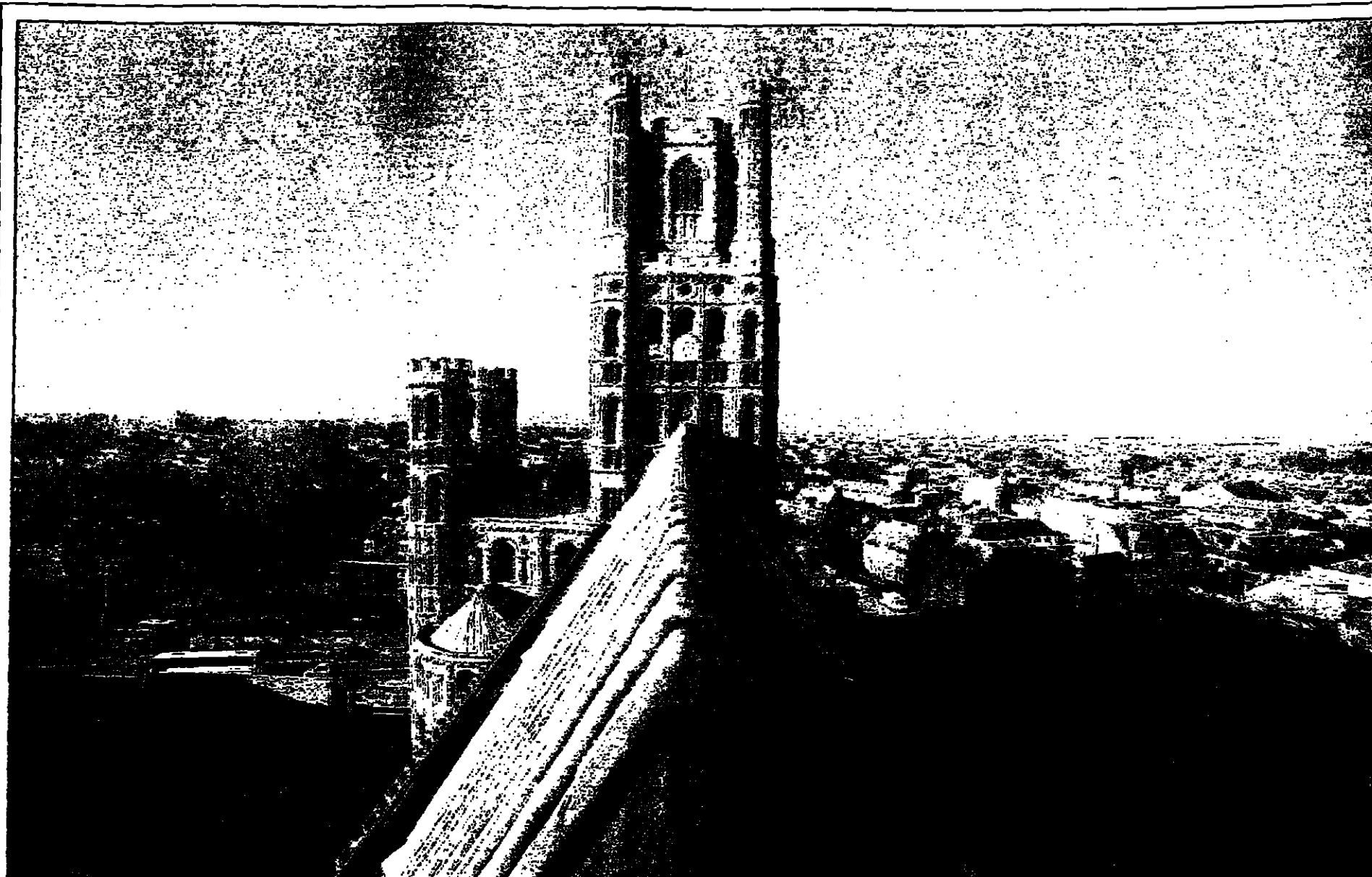
Although the inquiry is formally over there will be no conclusions on possible prosecutions for six to eight weeks, perhaps longer. All parties in the case - the 10 pursuing photographers facing possible manslaughter charges, the families of the three victims and the survivor, the bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones - have 20 days to request further investigation. If Judge Stéphan rejects their requests, the parties can appeal, delaying the entire process for months longer.

If everybody is satisfied, the judge will hand the dossier to the public prosecutor's office in the middle of next month. The procureur, or public prosecutor, has three months to recommend whether criminal charges should be brought, although a swifter decision is expected. The judge has a further two weeks to accept or reject the prosecutor's opinion.

Even without an appeal for more inquiries, judicial sources say no decision on charges should be expected before the middle of March.

Sources believe Judge Stéphan has found no convincing evidence that the photographers caused the crash.

He is also said to be unconvinced by calls from Mr Rees-Jones' lawyers for negligence charges to be brought against the Ritz Hotel, who employed Mr Paul.



The Romanesque splendour of Ely Cathedral, which has been awarded the second largest grant of £416,000 from English Heritage

Andrew Buurman

## £9m grant rescues English cathedrals

By CLARE GARNER

ENGLISH CATHEDRALS were awarded £9m yesterday to be spent on essential repairs over the next three years.

English Heritage announced grants totalling more than £3m to be shared among 29 cathedrals over the coming year, and a further £6m to follow, provided the work was completed on time.

Announcing the award at Ely Cathedral, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said: "Now that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has agreed our funding for the next three years, for the first time we will be able to give cathedrals the



From left, Salisbury Cathedral, which receives a £503,000 grant, and Worcester and Lincoln cathedrals



security of knowing what funding the cathedrals can expect from English Heritage over the next three years."

The largest individual grant, £503,000, went to Salisbury Cathedral, for continuing work on the west-front masonry,

and repairs to medieval glazing.

Ely Cathedral, an impressive example of Romanesque architecture that dominates the small city and its surrounding landscape, received the second largest, £416,000. Dr

Michael Higgins, the Dean of Ely, said: "This magnificent grant takes Ely into the last stages of a £12m restoration, the biggest in our long history."

Sir Jocelyn praised Dr Higgins for the way he had put together plans and completed

them on time and within budget. He said he wished all cathedrals were as effective as Ely and warned that, when it came to agreeing grants for the second and third years, cathedrals would be judged on their record in this coming year.

England's cathedrals were, he added, "admired and visited by people (from) all over the world", and provided an education resource and employment, as well as promoting high standards in skills such as stone and lead-working. "It is of the utmost importance that everything is done to help preserve them and the treasures they contain," he said.

Other large grants for the coming year went to Lincoln Cathedral, £364,000, and Worcester Cathedral, £360,000. Gloucester Cathedral received £175,000 and St Paul's £100,000. Since 1991 English Heritage has given almost £30m to the nation's great ecclesiastical buildings.

## Dinosaur that sprinted like a cheetah is found in fossil

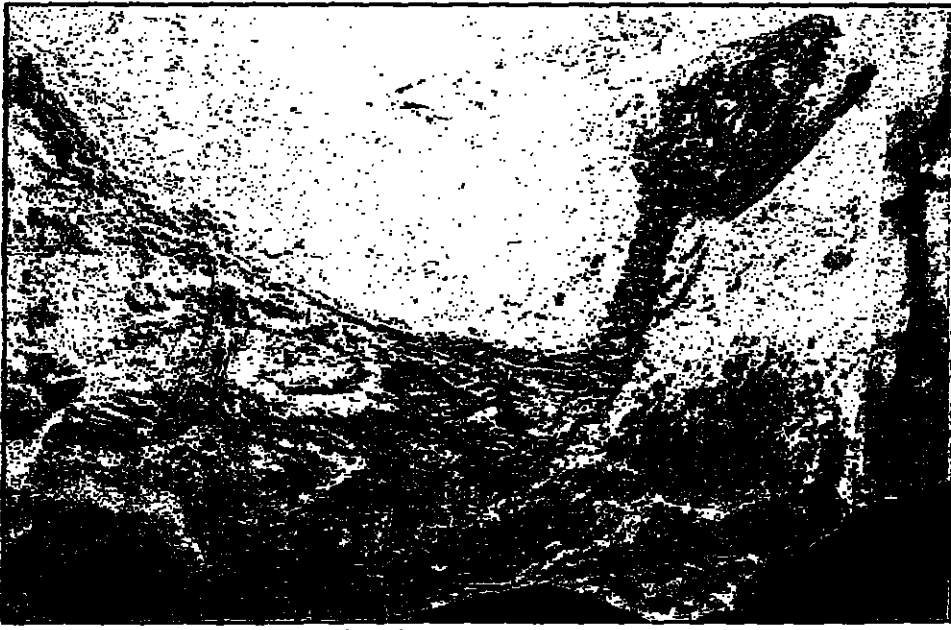
By STEVE CONNOR  
Science Correspondent  
in Los Angeles

ONE OF the most perfectly preserved fossils of a meat-eating dinosaur - giving a unique view of the animal's internal organs - has revealed that although the extinct carnivores often lounged around like lizards, they could also sprint like a cheetah.

A study of the fossil theropod - the group that includes T rex and the vicious velociraptors of Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* - shows their organs were perfectly adapted to frantic bursts of speed when it was necessary.

The fossil of a baby *Scipionyx*, which lived 110 million years ago and bore a resemblance to velociraptors, displays within the body cavity a partition separating the heart and lungs from the liver and guts. Scientists believe this acted as a primitive diaphragm, which ventilated the lungs during periods of intense activity.

Nicholas Geist, a dinosaur expert at Oregon State University and member of the team that studied the fossil, said the find has shed new light on the behaviour of the dinosaurs and could help to resolve whether they were cold-blooded, like reptiles, or warm-



Scipionyx could lounge like a lizard but was no slouch when a meal beckoned OSU

blooded, like mammals. "The theropod dinosaurs were fast, dangerous animals, certainly not slow or sluggish. They could conserve energy much of the time and then go like hell whenever they wanted to."

"This fossil is helping to confirm the dinosaurs were ... cold-blooded ... But the extraordinary condition of the fossil allows us to hang some meat on the bones of these animals and bring them back to life a little

bit. It's almost like a dinosaur dissection."

Cold-blooded animals in a warm climate can move quickly, Dr Geist added. "Then, if you add in the lung capacity that we're finding for meat-eating dinosaurs, what you have is a turbo-charged reptile. If you could go back in time and saw one of them, that's probably the last thing you'd ever see."

The fossil *Scipionyx* was found in Italy. Terry Jones, an-

other member of the Oregon team, said: "The baby dinosaur probably died in a ... saltwater marsh that preserved its structure incredibly well. It's like a Rosetta stone for palaeontology, and shows us more about dinosaur biology than we ever knew before." Details of the findings are in *Science*, journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which yesterday opened its annual meeting in Los Angeles.

## Prisoner copied death-row video

A REMAND prisoner at a privately run jail was found hanging in his cell within hours of watching a rented video about a death row inmate being sent to the gas chamber.

The coroner at the man's inquest yesterday expressed concern that inmates should be allowed to watch films showing prisoners awaiting execution.

Michael Arliss, 31, died in Doncaster prison shortly after watching *The Chamber*, a film based on a John Grisham novel. Mr Arliss, who was

By IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

charged with murdering his girlfriend, had been on remand in the prison for seven months when he was found dead on the morning of 24 March last year. Jail staff described him as a model prisoner. He was not considered a suicide risk.

The Doncaster coroner, Stanley Hooper, said: "I am concerned about the fact that entertainment ... [of this type] ... should be shown to prison-

ers. I will write to the Home Secretary because I'm told there is no nationwide policy about what is shown in prisons. I will ask that consideration be given to some sort of restrictions on what is available, not least to men and women on remand for charges of murder."

Doncaster prison is a private jail run by an American company, Premier Prisons. It has category B status and houses 1,100 inmates, some of whom have been sentenced and others who are on remand.

Kevin Rogers, the prison director, said he had no power to censor which films inmates watched, although pornography was banned. "If the film was about making bombs, guns or escape plans I might be able to stop it because it posed a threat to prison security but I am not in a position to censor ordinary films even though I am a prison governor," he said.

The jury returned a verdict that Mr Arliss, who had intended to plead not guilty to murder, killed himself.

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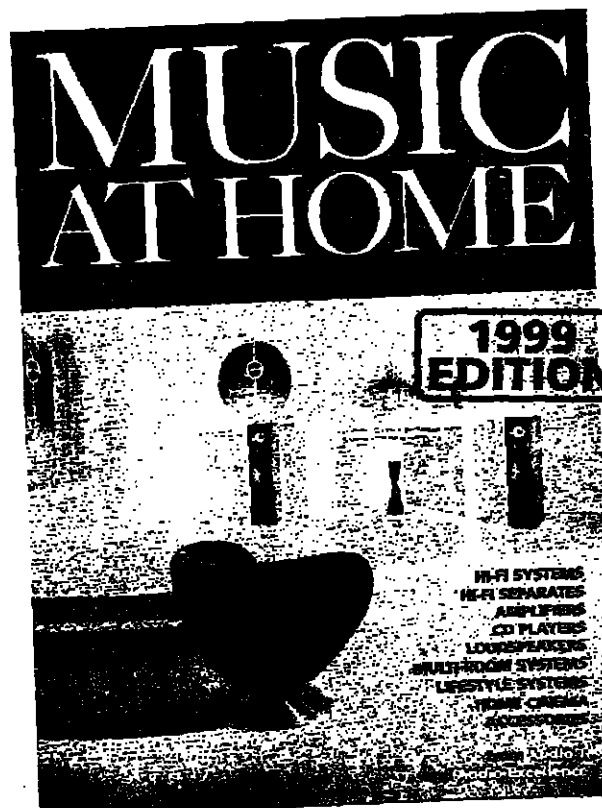
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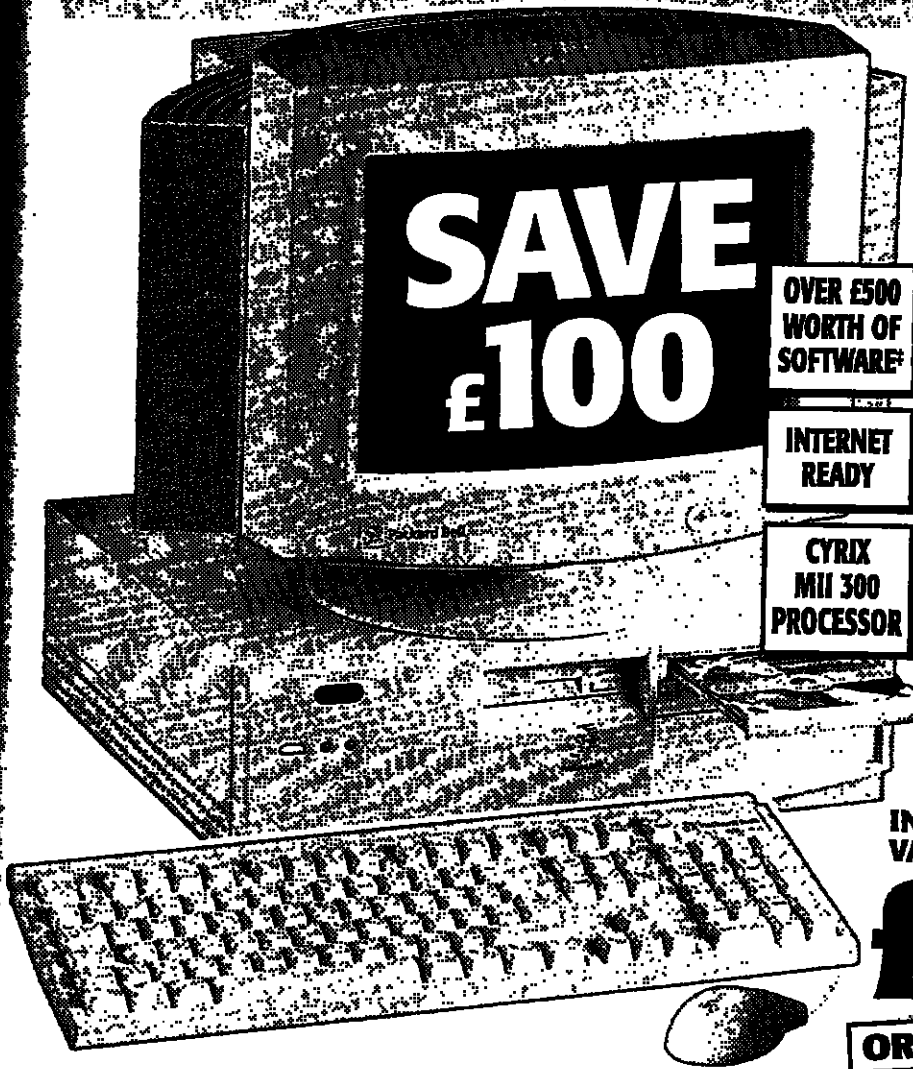
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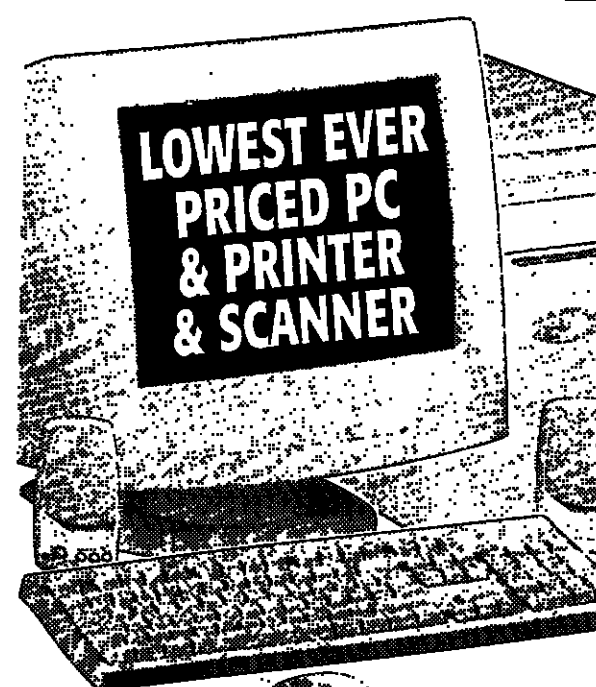


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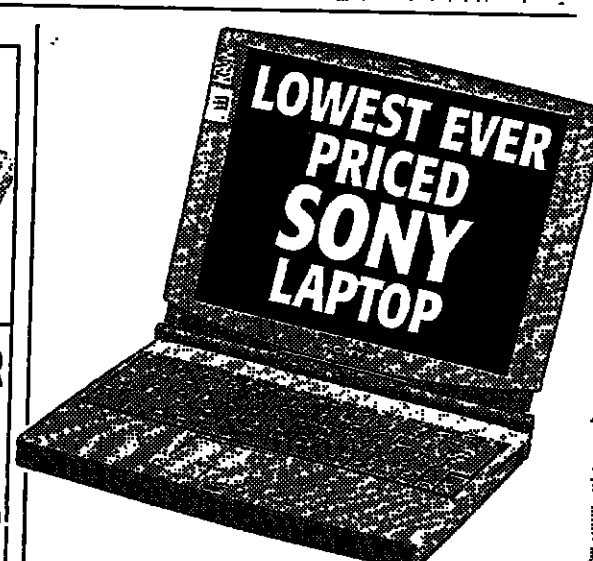
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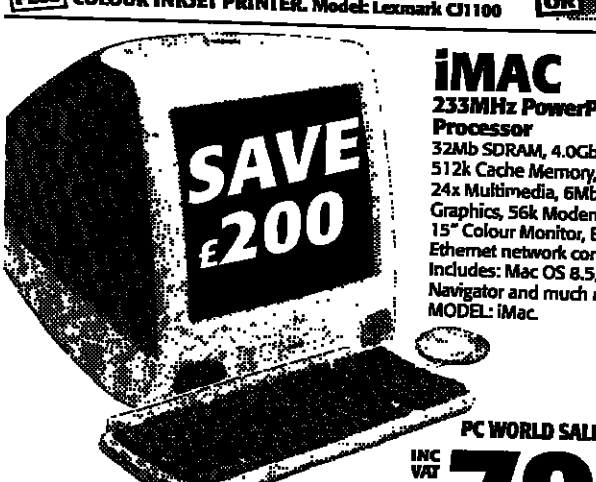
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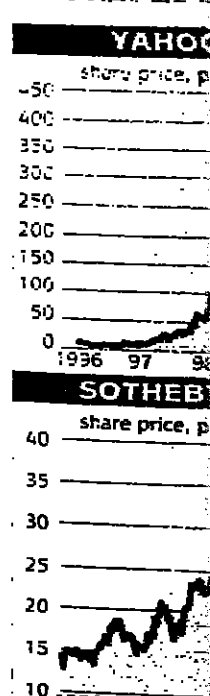
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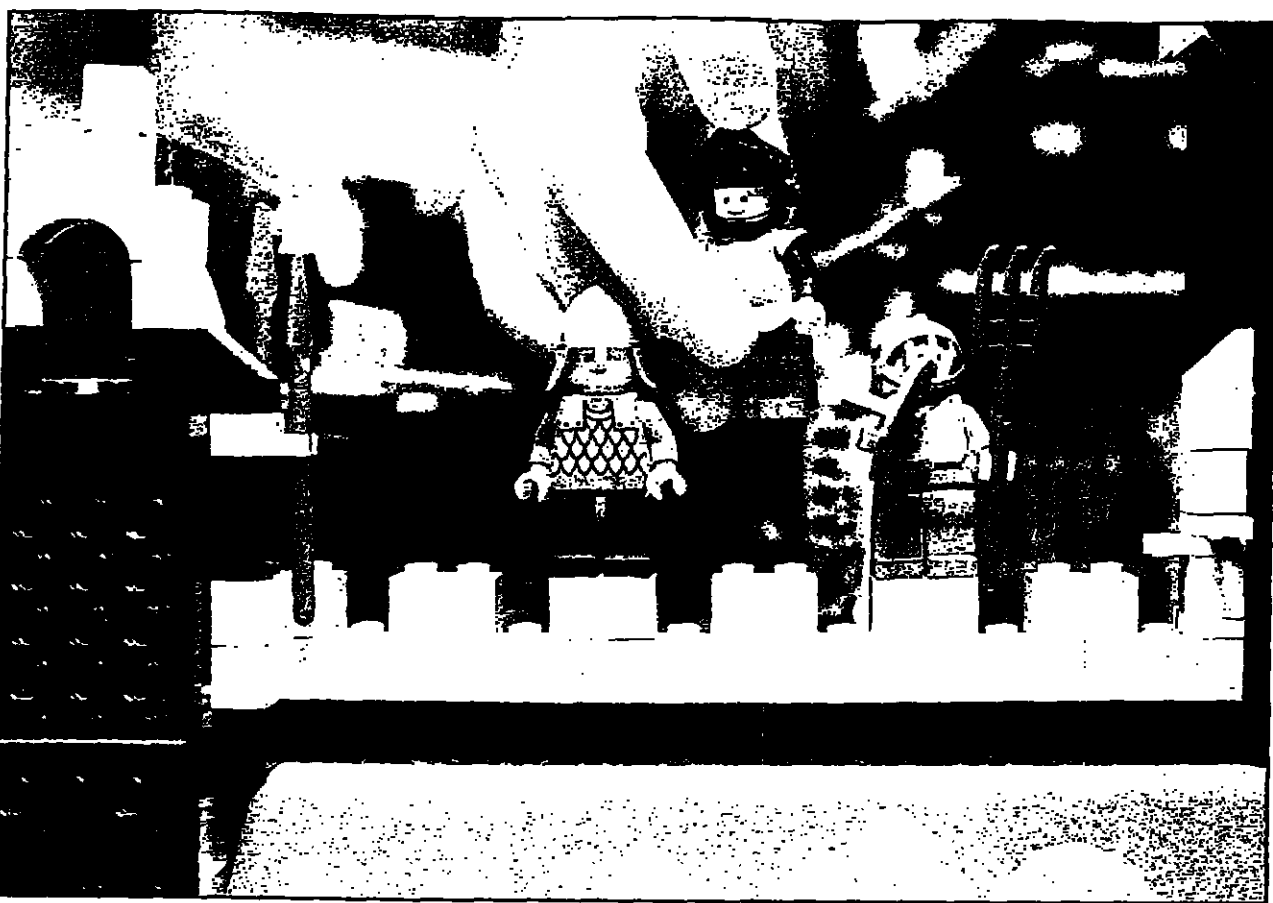
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Technology: Traditional children's favourite in trouble as computer mania hits everything from shares to toys



Lego has been hit by the growth of computer toys such as Sony's Playstation

John Lawrence

## Lego lays off 1,000 as toys go digital

LEGO, THE legendary maker of toy bricks, is to scrap 1,000 jobs worldwide in a move to fight competition from electronic games and restore its crumbling finances.

The sweeping restructuring, announced yesterday, comes after a year in which the Danish group's performance was hit by the huge growth in a new breed of computer games, such as those carried by Sony's Playstation. Industry experts say most children have ditched Lego's old fashioned bricks, which have remained virtually unchanged for half a century, for high-tech games.

The company tried to bridge the gap last year with the launch of Lego Mindstorms, an "intelligent" brick fitted with a microchip that can be built into

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

a moving robot. Lego's efforts to get rid of its staid image also saw the Danish company tie up with Walt Disney to market Winnie the Pooh and with the film director George Lucas to sell toys modelled on the Star Wars characters.

However, analysts believe that Lego's marketing efforts are doomed unless the company reforms its internal workings. The company said yesterday that its inefficient corporate structure and difficult market conditions would push it into the red for the first time in its 67-year history.

The firm said the job cuts were needed to stop the slide in sales and profits. In a letter to the group's 10,000 employees,

Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, Lego's billionaire owner, said the company needed a "fitness programme" to improve its financial health. "Just like athletes, before we begin our all-important task we have to slim down and improve our overall health," he said.

The programme would see the disappearance of 1,000 jobs in 30 countries. In Britain, Lego has about 300 employees, mainly in the Legoland Park in Windsor, Berkshire, and in its sales operation in Wrexham, Chwyd. A spokesman said it was "too early" to say where the axe would fall but a counselling centre would be set up to help with the stress of redundancy. "It's part of the Lego culture of being close to our staff," Mr Kristiansen, whose per-

sonal fortune is estimated at about \$2.3bn (£1.4bn), said the cuts would come mainly among administrative staff to "create a new, simpler and above all more efficient business system".

Industry experts believe that Lego's bloated workforce is one of the reasons for its problems and it will not be able to reverse its poor performance in the short term. They estimate Lego will post a loss of about 200m Danish Krona (£19m) when it unveils its results for last year at the end of April.

Mr Kristiansen, the third generation of his family to run the firm, said Lego was not facing a crisis. "We will not deviate from our goal of being the world's strongest brand among families," he said.

## Experts warn of Internet share crash

THE LAUGHTER over Wall Street just now is almost audible. It erupts daily with the opening of the markets and if you listen carefully you will hear a million tongues chanting two magic words. Dot-com, they recite over and over. dot-com. It is the sound of unrestrained cheer and, it must be said, of high anxiety.

Warning came from one of the Street's best-known sages yesterday: this is a bubble that will surely burst. And indeed an abrupt sell-off of Internet stocks in New York yesterday sent the Nasdaq exchange plummeting by an ominous 3 per cent.

This is the season, the chapter in human history, that the world found the Internet. And went nuts over it. The rules that Wall Street has lived by for decades - such as calibrating stock values against earnings - have been thrown out. Investors want nothing of common sense and caution. Show them an Internet stock and they will buy it; never mind if the company has no earnings. The stars are well known.

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

"It's the wildest thing I've ever seen," commented Chuck Hill, research director of the market researchers First Call in New York. "I think the market as a whole is overpriced and that we're in a bubble and the extreme within that bubble is the Internet stocks."

Some see parallels with the Dutch tulip craze of 1635, when investors worldwide rushed to spend today's equivalent of \$17,000 to \$76,000 on a single bulb. What made a humble bulb such a must-buy is hard now to imagine. But the Internet seems more compelling. We are in the midst of a new revolution, the argument goes, akin to the dawn of the industrial age.

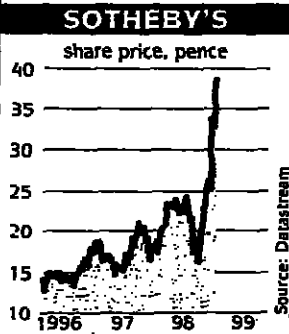
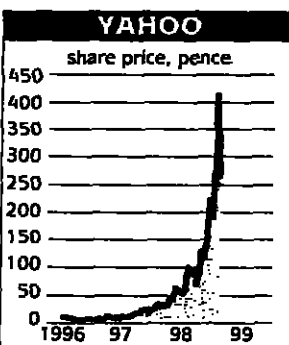
Believers say that a whole new society is opening before us, where commerce will no longer be conducted in the physical world of bricks and mortar but in the digital world of cyber-space. The swing of the shop door will give way to the mouse-click and the browser. And there is evidence to support the theory. In this last Christmas season, no fewer than 17 million Americans entered the universe of the Internet for the first time. Most of them were there to buy things.

And so the stocks have risen. Most starting have been the serial initial public offerings (IPOs) in recent months of new companies with one thing in common: no profits, but dot-com after their name. It was five weeks ago, for example, that theglobe.com, the company that now is seeking a partner in Britain, listed itself on the Nasdaq and saw the value of its shares rise 606 per cent in that first day.

The flood of money, most of it from small investors but recently from institutions as well, has thus propelled market values to truly astonishing heights. The auction house eBay, which is essentially a non-stop car-boot sale in cyberspace, is now worth six times as much as Sotheby's. No wonder the latter announced this week that it is to launch its own web site, to be called sothebys.com.

Founded only 1994, Yahoo!, that has the most popular portal site in the industry, offering one-click access to entertainment, news, online shopping and (of course) stock trading, is now worth twice the empire that Rupert Murdoch built. No wonder he tried this week to pour cold water on the Internet, suggesting it would destroy more companies than it created. Yahoo!, indeed, is more valuable than General Motors.

The same sums can be made for America Online. The company, which recently made headlines gobbling up browser pioneer Netscape, is more valuable today than either Du Pont, Chevron or Eastman Kodak.



They include Amazon.com, the virtual book and compact disc seller. It still loses money and, according to some analysts, has little immediate prospect of seeing any profits at all. And yet its stock rose 986 per cent last year. The company is now valued at \$18bn (£10.5bn). Add to your list Yahoo!, with its Internet directory site, the digital auction house eBay and the grandfather of online services, America Online.

Speaking up for those fearing a crash-landing for these investors is Barton Biggs, chairman of the Morgan Stanley bank and oracle of the markets. He warned, in particular, of the inexperience in matters of the market among most of the investors wooed by the magic of the Net. "They are buying stocks strictly on the basis of their personal experience in the Internet," he said yesterday in a speech in Japan.

PHILIP HENSHER

We want a martyr; and martyrs aren't bitter, don't behave badly or have sex

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW

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"SEVEN SEATS?" thought Alice. "And AIR-CONDITIONING? And ANTI-LOCK BRAKES? And TWO YEARS' FREE SERVICING? And TWO YEARS' INTEREST-FREE CREDIT? All this from £18,995?" She felt dreadfully puzzled.

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# Navy stands by as Freetown suffers

**PUBLICITY-CONSCIOUS** even down to the prepared press information kit, the Royal Navy, in the shape of the warship Norfolk, sits off Freetown pondering how best one might portray one's role in this particular African humanitarian crisis.

"You wanted to take a photograph of a sailor leaning against a machine-gun on deck?" said Lt-Cdr Alison Fowler, supplies officer with responsibility for public relations. "That really is not the image we need to project. The machine-guns are here to protect us. The ship is here purely in a humanitarian role."

On land, in the smoking capital of Sierra Leone, thousands of people sheltering from bullets and butchery in a football stadium would like to see the fruits of Britain's humanitarian role. Or the vegetables.

There was a press conference here two days ago with talk of 3.3 tonnes of British medical aid. But yesterday all you could get in Siaka Stephens stadium were some anti-malarials and diarrhoea cures from Unicef.

"The 3.3 metric tonnes was made up of stretchers, antibiotics, drips and anaesthetics from Britain," said Richard Powell, executive officer of the Norfolk. "On Wednesday, we delivered them to the health minister in person."

In this conflict, which began with the invasion of Freetown by armed men on January 6, there is little trust. The Nigerians in Ecomog, the West

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH  
in Freetown

African intervention force, are tough soldiers. About 15,000 of them are here, backed by some Ghanaians and Guineans. It is their job to flush out the forces threatening the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

In a grubby war which has claimed up to 10,000 lives in a fortnight, the British are grateful to the Nigerians and their back-up, the Kamsar, pro-Kabbah bush militia, who take no prisoners.

There is no way any British lives are to be lost to Liberian-backed rebels who are said to ask: "Short sleeves, or long sleeves?" before they cut your arms off above the elbow or above the wrist.

They may be the saviours of ordinary Sierra Leoneans but no one here trusts the Kamsars or the Nigerians any more than they do the Lebanese, those traders known for dabbling in anything West African, from diamonds to shark fins.

The soldiers of Ecomog are underpaid, if at all, by the Nigerian ministry of defence and rely on gifts and kickbacks. That is why Britain is not keen to let Ecomog distribute 3.3 tonnes of medical aid.

Ecomog claims international charities have been aiding the rebels. It even claimed, privately, that the International Red Cross (ICRC) was running arms for the rebels. Publicly, Ecomog said charities had allowed the rebels to use



Soldiers standing guard as food aid shipments are unloaded in Sierra Leone

their satellite phones. So it confiscated the phones, prompting all the medical charities to leave.

There is only one surgeon, Dr Mumba Kawa, still working at Connaught Hospital, Freetown, in a near non-stop struggle

to save lives and limbs. A half in the dilapidated hospital was full of bleeding casualties brought in by Ecomog soldiers.

"I have never seen anything like this since the latest fighting started," said Dr Mumba Kawa, his voice at times

drowned by screams from the operating theatre. "I am very short-staffed. My people have been working very bravely day in, day out. All they are using is local anaesthetics."

Ousman Mbendu, 43, from Kissy, was brought in with a pair

of jeans supporting one arm that was dangling from a slender strip of bone and ligament. The other hand had a deep gash where his watch used to be. Medical staff injected local anaesthesia, then one snipped off the hanging arm with scissors

and tossed it nonchalantly into a bin. On an adjoining operating table a middle-aged man, clearly in shock, yelled: "Please don't cut off my arm. I am a businessman, not a politician." The rebels had already chopped it off.

On the streets of the coastal capital - almost unscathed in the west but riddled with snipers and attacking rebels in the east and port area - Lebanese traders are accused of cashing in. A chicken that cost 8,000 Leones (£2) last month, is now sold for £16,000.

People are hungry in Siaka Stephens stadium. They are not starving. But they are sick with cholera. There is food in Freetown, even if it comes from warehouses raided by the retreating rebels and sold by their friends.

Britain, by sending the Norfolk has been a "godsend" and "the boost we needed" say the people. Next week, its supply ship, RFA Oak Leaf, arrives, a further sign of Britain's commitment to helping President Kabbah survive without a Sierra Leone army.

Captain Bruce Williams is proud that his 182 crew - plus seven Royal Marines - provide "a presence". He said: "The Government is showing its support for a fledgling democracy and providing hope for Sierra Leone that there are people who care."

But the problem that has reared itself twice in 18 months remains - that Britain is supporting a democrat without an army against "rebels" backed by at least one neighbour, Liberia.

Britain wants to keep its hands clean; the rebels want power and they do not care how many limbs or lives are lost.

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## Battling Welsh back at Rorke's Drift

BY ED O'LOUGHLIN  
in Rorke's Drift

IT IS 120 years since the Welsh soldiers of the 24th Regiment crossed the Buffalo River to destroy the power of the Zulu nation but the picturesque ford known as Rorke's Drift still marks a frontier of sorts.

To the west lie the green hills of Natal and to the east lies Zululand, home to South Africa's proudest and most conservative tribe. These uplands earned their inhabitants the Nguni name amaZulu, or people of the heavens, but apartheid turned the whole region into a compulsory "homeland" for millions of black South Africans who happened to speak the Zulu tongue. Impoverished villages and mud huts sprawl as far as the eye can see.

So there were plenty of people around yesterday when a detachment of the Royal Regiment of Wales, led by the band of the Prince of Wales Division, marched across the new bridge over Rorke's Drift and - literally - into history.

It was their forebears in the 24th Regiment (later the South Wales Borderers) who 120 years ago today fought two of the British Army's most remarkable battles. The first, Isandhlwana, was the worst defeat in the history of British colonial wars - 1,500 British and colonial troops and their African allies lost their lives, including 600 members of the 24th and six companies of the 2nd Warwickshire Regiment.

The subsequent defence of the mission station of Rorke's Drift by 110 outnumbered British troops, most of them from the 24th Regiment, was a



The Royal Regiment of Wales re-enacting Rorke's Drift

sideshow but led to the awarding of 11 Victoria Crosses, the most for a single engagement. It was dramatised in the film *Zulu*, compulsory viewing for the Royal Regiment of Wales every 22 January.

Yesterday Lieutenant Colonel Iain Cholerton, who marched his men and women from Rorke's Drift to Isandhlwana, said he was deeply proud to bring his regiment back. "It is one of my aims to teach them something of the history of the battalion," he said, standing under the grave-strewn slopes of Isandhlwana. "We value this 24 hours of our history more than anything else in our 310-year history."

Today's anniversary will include a re-enactment and speeches by the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, and his controversial "prime minister" and Zulu nationalist, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The Zulus lost 2,500 of their best warriors in the two battles

and their king, Cetshwayo, heaped a pyrrhic victory. The British commander, Lord Chelmsford, blamed himself for exposing the camp at Isandhlwana to the Zulus' surprise attack. The next time he came up against them, at Ulundi, his Maxim guns made sure the Zulus, with their leather shields and spears, would never seriously challenge colonial rule again.

Yesterday morning Rifleman Shadrack Mbatha, a member of South Africa's mainly Zulu 121 Infantry Regiment, stood guard as the unarmed British marched across Rorke's Drift. He was happy to see them, he said, because they reminded him of the great Zulu victory at Isandhlwana.

And what if he were called on to defend Zululand again? He smiled. "We aren't here to defend Zululand only but the whole of South Africa. We are all in South Africa together now."

## Court frees journalists tortured for coup story

A ZIMBABWEAN court yesterday freed on bail two journalists who had been tortured by military police during illegal detention.

Custom Kambachwa, a magistrate, released Mark Chavunduka, 34, the editor of the independent *Standard* newspaper, and Ray Choto, 36, a reporter. Both had marks left by cigarette burns and electric shocks. About 100 supporters cheered Mr Chavunduka and Mr Choto as they left the courthouse.

The men had been detained after reporting on a suspected coup plot last week. The military's fierce reaction to the report has triggered speculation that a purge may have taken place in the army.

Simon Bull, a lawyer who represents the journalists, said

BY ANGUS SHAW  
in Harare

they had been subjected to electric shocks and their heads were submerged in drums of water in a suffocation torture method known as "the submarine". They were also made to roll in wet grass to clean blood from their bodies after being beaten, Mr Bull said.

Mr Kambachwa released the men on 10,000 Zimbabwean dollars (£150) bail to reappear before him on 22 February on charges of publishing falsified information likely to cause fear, alarm and despondency.

Mr Chavunduka was detained last week by the military after his paper said 23 soldiers were arrested on 17 December for allegedly inciting fellow soldiers to overthrow the Presi-

dent, Robert Mugabe. The High Court ruled that the military had no jurisdiction over civilians and threatened to arrest the Defence Minister, Moven Mahachi, if Mr Chavunduka was not handed over to civilian police and charged.

Mr Bull said military intelligence officers told Mr Choto during torture that President Mugabe had signed his death warrant and he was to be killed. Mr Choto said he believed them "because he had been so badly tortured".

The newspaper's publisher, Clive Wilson, said the journalists were tortured to divulge their sources but they gave no information on the origin of the report. "This is absolutely disgraceful, it's like something out of Nazi Germany," Mr Wilson said. (AP)

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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Mirror Group opens talks with RIM

MIRROR GROUP yesterday offered to enter into negotiations with Regional Independent Media, the privately-owned regional newspaper publisher, about a possible bid for the company. But the newspaper group also informed RIM that its £913m indicative bid for Mirror was not adequate. Observers said Mirror's offer suggested it was willing to share information about the company with RIM, which is backed by venture capital group Candover, and George Soros, the international financier. Trinity, the rival newspaper group, is currently considering whether to increase its own indicative bid for Mirror.

### BAe talks offer spurned

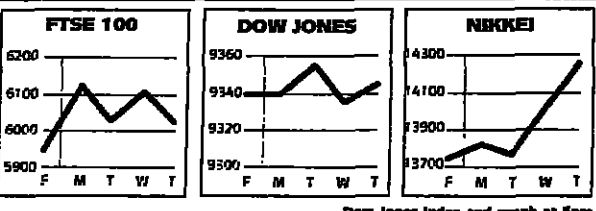
DAIMLERCHRYSLER Aerospace yesterday spurned an offer, backed by Prime Minister Tony Blair (left), of renewed talks with British Aerospace. "If the BAe/GEC merger goes ahead as announced a balanced horizontal European structure, like Dasa/BAe, would be made impossible," a Dasa spokesman said. Mr Blair told the German

Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, that he would support a resumption of talks between BAe and Dasa. BAe also said backed the long-term consolidation of the European defence industry, but declined to comment on specific plans to make further contact with Dasa.

### Warning on pensions reform

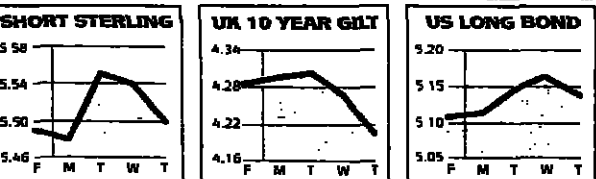
The National Association of Pension Funds warned that the Government's plans for pension reform could lead hundreds of thousands of pension savers worse off and may lead to mis-selling. The NAPF said the Green Paper on pensions, subject to consultation until the end of March, "does nothing to encourage people to join occupational schemes. You might find people picking up a stakeholder pension and ending up with worse incomes as a result".

## STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6022.30	-43.30	6195.60	4599.20	2.68
FTSE 250	4875.80	-5.10	5070.90	4240.50	3.39
FTSE 350	2830.00	-34.20	2969.10	2210.40	2.79
FTSE All Share	2729.03	-31.54	2886.52	2143.53	2.84
FTSE SmallCap	2105.30	-2.80	2179.80	1834.40	3.82
FTSE Fledgling	1182.70	0.10	1517.10	1046.20	3.24
FTSE AIM	820.30	2.10	1146.90	761.30	4.21
FTSE Europe 100	2793.23	-38.41	3079.27	2018.15	1.10
FTSE Europe 300	1214.21	-15.71	1332.07	880.63	1.02
Dow Jones	9344.92	-6.95	9647.96	7400.30	1.04
Nikkei	14245.62	217.37	15352.95	12787.90	1.04
Hang Seng	10048.57	-266.34	11926.16	6944.79	2.77
Dax	5156.67	13.61	6217.83	3833.71	1.67
S&P 500	1248.15	-10.29	1278.05	923.32	1.37
Nasdaq	2379.04	-39.64	2474.38	1957.09	0.96
Toronto 300	6712.90	1.36	7837.70	5320.90	1.61
Brazil Bovespa	7408.88	-280.85	12339.14	4575.69	9.32
Belgium Bel20	3441.63	-49.50	3713.21	2490.56	2.07
Amsterdam AEX	243.79	-9.38	260.63	246.58	1.81
France CAC 40	4154.03	-35.98	4404.94	2881.21	1.94
Milan MIB30	34601.00	-781.00	39170.00	24175.00	1.18
Madrid Ibsc 35	9920.80	-169.30	10989.80	6869.90	1.88
Irish Overall	5306.91	66.05	5581.70	3732.57	1.41
S Korea Comp	582.04	-31.39	651.95	277.37	1.13
Australia ASX	2852.00	-20.70	2902.90	2386.70	3.24

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	5.79	-1.82	5.43	-2.19	4.20	-1.86	-1.83
US	4.97	-0.65	5.09	-0.57	4.69	0.85	5.14
Japan	0.45	-0.28	0.47	-0.23	1.88	-0.13	2.93
Germany	3.05	-0.50	2.99	-0.81	3.66	-1.47	4.60

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Wolverhampton and Dudley managing director David Thompson (right) with financial director Ralph Findlay after the brewery announced a £288m offer for Marston, Thompson & Evershed yesterday

## £288m offer puts W&D on top in contest of Midland brewers

WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY, the regional brewer, yesterday moved a step closer to winning control of Marston, Thompson & Evershed after raising the offer for its West Midlands rival by over £20m to £288m. Marston, which launched an unprecedented £317m counterbid for W&D earlier this month, rejected the improved bid - a 77 per cent premium to Marston's share price at the start of the takeover war - saying that it was still too low. The bitter two-way battle took a further twist when it emerged that Marston, famous for its Pedigree bitter and Pitcher and Piano pubs, was unlikely to

increase its bid. Sources close to the company said the brewer was not planning to pay more for its rival but would launch a lobbying campaign to convince shareholders of the merits of its strategy. Marston has proposed closing two W&D breweries, in Wolverhampton and Hartlepool, and selling 1,150 pubs for £250m in an effort to improve the enlarged group's performance. David Thompson, the W&D managing director, urged Marston's investors, many of whom also hold a stake in W&D, to accept the offer which is 9 per cent higher than the

original £262m bid rejected by Marston in November. He said the bid would "significantly enhance" earnings in the combined group and help it to weather the downturn in the regional brewing market. Shareholders in the two companies said that although W&D's improved offer was lower than expected, it could be enough to win control Marston. "It's not a knock-out blow but I think they'll get it, unless Marston does something clever," one leading investor said. Shares in the two brewers, which have soared since the start of the saga, fell as the market took profits and expressed

scepticism over the prospect of further price rises. W&D fell 8p to 427.5p, while Marston closed 5p lower at 288.5p. "The market has some reservations over whether either bid would be successful and has decided that it is best to lock some profits in now," one analyst said. Mr Thompson claimed that a W&D - Marston tie-up would achieve cost reductions of £17m - £5m higher than previously indicated, but still below Marston's estimate of a £24m saving.

He revealed that a friendly merger had been explored last year but had foundered due to disagreements over strategy.

## Green triumphs in battle for Sears

THE CURTAIN came down on one of the high street's longest running disaster stories yesterday when Sears, the struggling retail group, succumbed to an agreed £548m bid which is likely to see the once-sprawling conglomerate broken up into its constituent parts.

Late yesterday afternoon the Sears board accepted an increased cash offer of 35p per share from a consortium led by Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur and backed by the secretive Barclay brothers. This follows its rejection of an earlier 340p per share offer.

Phillips & Drew, Sears' largest shareholder, with a 22.3 per cent stake, has irrevocably agreed to accept the bid from January Investments, the Barclay's bid vehicle. However, this agreement will cease to be binding in the event of a competing offer of more than 360p.

The deal includes all Sears businesses, which span Freeman's mail order and a string of high street chains including Miss Selfridge, Adams, Richards, Wallis and Warehouse. Mr Green is expected to line up an early sale of Freeman's, possibly to Otto Versand of Germany for around £150m. The Creation charge card business will still be sold for £141m.

Mr Green was in upbeat mood yesterday after his victory. Speaking from the Dorchester Hotel in London where he has been staying during the bid battle, he said: "It's been a long two weeks. I'm tired but happy that we've got there in the end. I think we would have got there at 340p to be honest, but it was worth going that extra mile."

Mr Green had dinner with Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman at the Dorchester on

Thursday night where they agreed terms. Mr Green said the deal was "very cordial". The final points were agreed yesterday by separate negotiating teams at Sears head office near Oxford Street.

"The increased offer represents a fair deal for shareholders and is in line with the board's strategy to return value to them," Sir Bob said. This was ridiculed by analysts. One said: "It is pathetic but will we miss Sears? No we won't. Good riddance to it."

The deal marks the end of an era for one of Britain's best-known companies. Sears was founded in 1908 by John Sears and transformed in the 1950s by Charles Clow.

Though best known as a shoe retailer with names such as Freeman Hardy Willis, Saxone and Dolcis, its interests at one stage also spanned engineering, a shipbuilding company, William Hill bookmakers, Mappin & Webb jewellers, Lewis's department stores and a 20 per cent stake in Asprey, the Bond Street jeweller.

In addition to Sears, Mr Green's retail interests include the Mark One discount clothing chain, Owen Owen department stores and Shoe Express, bought from Sears.

Mr Green will have a 20 per cent in Sears but says that he has no plans to return to the stock market. "That's not my best vocation."

Sears shares closed 7p higher at 354.5p.

## Service sector growth stalled

THERE WAS fresh evidence of a slowdown in the services sector yesterday, fuelling speculation that today's crucial growth figures will show that the economy stagnated towards the end of last year.

In the fourth quarter of 1998, service sector firms experienced their lowest growth in domestic sales and orders for six years, according to the latest British Chambers of Commerce survey. Calling for another half-point reduction in interest rates, Dr Ian Peters, the BCC's deputy director general, said: "The economic outlook is now finely balanced with the odds on recession or recovery too close to call."

The weak service sector figures - coupled with Wednesday's disappointing retail sales data - increased speculation that today's key GDP numbers will show that UK economic growth ground to a halt in the last quarter of 1998. Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "This survey confirms that fourth quarter GDP will be soft."

However, there was a glimmer of hope for UK manufacturers - a slight improvement in both manufacturing confidence and sales overseas, after a sustained period of decline. Dr Peters said: "Recent cuts in interest rates and improved export prospects have given manufacturing a fillip."

Separate figures from the consultancy firm NTC Research also suggested recent rate cuts had stemmed the slide in confidence. The NTC Consumers' Industries Indicator increased marginally for the second successive month, following an up turn in both consumer confidence and the output of consumer industries.

Meanwhile new borrowing figures revealed that net mortgage lending by the major banks rose by a record £1.2bn in December, a surge attributed to a combination of refinancing and a shift in market share.

Total sterling lending to the M4 private sector rose by a larger-than-expected £5.5bn in December but analysts said that these figures had few policy implications.

Telewest Communications, the cable group, led the retreat, falling 19p to 244p. Unilever, 37.5p at 612.5p, was hit by worries about the impact of the Brazilian devaluation and HSBC gave up 48p at 1,718p.

Derek Pain, page 21

## Soros warns of stock market bubble in US and Europe

GEORGE SOROS, the renowned currency speculator, yesterday warned of new threats to international financial markets and criticised government handling of the crisis in Brazil.

His comments came as the Brazilian real plunged to a record low against the dollar, sparking renewed investor concerns about the country's financial health.

Speaking via a satellite link at a conference in Paris, Mr Soros argued that a speculative bubble was developing in Western financial markets.

The flood of funds from the emerging markets to the developed economies had led to high stock market valuations in the US and Europe, according to Mr Soros. "I see the development of an asset bubble as the next major threat to the system," he said.

The billionaire financier criticised the reaction of the Brazilian authorities to the country's economic crisis.

"The Brazilian government was badly advised in raising rates after the devaluation of the real," he said.

According to Mr Soros, unless Brazilian interest rates fall rapidly and confidence recovers, a serious recession is inevitable.

However, he added that, in the medium term, Brazil should be able to work through its economic woes.

"If you take a longer term view, two to three years, the situation in Brazil is not as serious as one might think," Mr Soros said.

His comments came as concerns over the physical stock of dollars in Brazil prompted sharp falls in the value of the real.

The real plunged 8.5 per cent to 1.715 to the dollar following reports that Brazilian banks were running short of foreign exchange.

Capital flight from the crisis-hit economy has averaged more than \$500m a day so far this year. The central bank - which itself has only limited reserves - has refused to inject liquidity in the system following its decision last week to let the real float freely against the dollar.

"If dollar flows aren't reversed, the dollar supply is just going to dry up," said Odair Abate, an economist at Lloyds Bank.

The sliding real hit sentiment on the Brazilian stock market, where the benchmark Bovespa index fell for the first time in five days.

Even Congress's approval on Wednesday night of a key part of the government's fiscal re-

form bill could not halt the slide in stock prices. By the early afternoon, the Bovespa was down almost 4 per cent at 7393.05.

Nick Stamenkovic at Bank Austria Creditanstalt Futures said: "The passage of the fiscal reform bill is a step in the right direction but the market is simply running out of patience."

Economists said continued falls in the real could lead to hyperinflation in Brazil, and might also prompt more states to default on their debt to the federal government.

Currencies elsewhere in Latin America came under pressure amid the renewed Brazilian concerns.

Speaking at a seminar in Tokyo, Barton Biggs, chairman and global strategist of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Investment Management, said: "The creeping deflation that began in Asia has continued to spread around the world. It has claimed another victim in Brazil. I'm very afraid it's going to claim other victims in Latin America, and the most obvious one is Argentina."

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## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

EQUITIES WERE ruffled by the signs of a division between President Bill Clinton and US banking chief Alan Greenspan and a sell-off of US internet shares. Worries about full year provisions at HSBC also unsettled the stock market and the Footsie ended 83.3 points down at 6,022.3p.

Telewest Communications, the cable group, led the retreat, falling 19p to 244p. Unilever, 37.5p at 612.5p, was hit by worries about the impact of the Brazilian devaluation and HSBC gave up 48p at 1,718p.

Derek Pain, page 21

### NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES Industrial Average moved into negative territory in afternoon trade amid concerns about US corporate earnings and Brazil.

The Dow was trading down 39.65 points - or 0.42 per cent - at 9296.26. The Nasdaq Composite Index was down 54.24 points at 2361.25. Communication and technology stocks were among the biggest fallers with shares in Lucent Technologies, the world's largest telephone equipment maker, falling after reporting lower-than-expected revenues.

HOPES FOR a further shake-up in banking stocks boosted blue chip stocks in Tokyo, with the Nikkei 225 closing up 1.6 per cent at 14,245.4. Trading was also helped by the news that Mitsubishi Chemical and Tokyo Tanabe are to merge and that Mitsui Trust & Banking and Chuo Holdings were in talks.

"Pension funds and foreigners are increasingly buying shares in the hope that Japan's banking system will be stabilised due to more public fund injections and a drastic shake-up," said Kazuo Mayuzumi at Nikko Securities.

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### HONG KONG

WORRIES OVER banks' exposure to China and a dimming outlook for interest rates left the blue-chip Hang Seng index down 266 at 10,048.6. Meanwhile, it emerged that a panel of international experts could offer no solutions for the territory's economic woes, but cost it HK\$1.5m. The panel, which included former US Fed chairman, Paul Volker, and News Corp's chairman, Rupert Murdoch, advised Hong Kong chief Tung Chee-hwa that there was no "magic medicine".

HSBC shares fell, page 19

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# Seven chief executives, still no strategy

ALONGSIDE THE chauffeur-driven car and share options, the chief executive's job at Laura Ashley plainly comes with a personal ejector seat. Certainly it seems that way after yesterday's better of an announcement that the latest incumbent has propelled herself into the stratosphere after just five months in the job. After her marathon slog with the purveyor of flowery clothes and wallpaper, Victoria Egan will land back in the Philippines, from whence she apparently came.

One of the most remarkable things about yesterday's announcement is that it made people realise how little was known about her. Though her name suggests a Sloane Ranger, she is actually a Filipino who married a British businessman. She never gave interviews and was rarely photographed. Her profile has not so much been low as subterranean.

Still, she is no more, and that makes it seven chief executives at good old Laura in the last eight years. Frivolously, the latest convulsion at this corporate disaster story is very bad news for shareholders indeed - yet another chief executive, more management changes.



## OUTLOOK

The strategy remains unchanged, the company insists, but the disruption must be damaging. Morale among the staff is at rock bottom. Why should they hang around when no chief executive has yet done so.

In any case, it is hard to know what the strategy is. A key problem for this group is that it has yet to decide what it wants to be. Laura Ashley is getting out of manufacturing, but it is still trying to sell a single retail concept of ladieswear, childrenswear and home furnishings all under one roof. Many of its outlets are not much bigger than newsagents and they are flung far and wide, stretching lines of com-

munication and making economies of scale virtually impossible.

Only half-jokingly it is suggested that the company close its remaining stores, change the name to Lashley.com and turn itself into an Internet retailer. Alternatively, shareholders could just pray. You never know. With the TV evangelist "Pat" Robertson joining the board, it might actually work.

## Green/Sears

IT IS HARD to know who is more to blame for the appalling undervalue that Sears has been sold for - the management, whose failure over the years both to manage the business and realise its value has been almost total, or the stock market, which has consistently refused to put a realistic break-up value on the group. Whatever the answer, there is little doubt that Philip Green and his financial backers, the Barclay brothers, have got one of the steals of the decade.

Just consider the following back-of-the-envelope calculation. The Creation credit card business is in the process of being sold for £141m, which is quite a lot more than the

stock market thought it was worth. All the same, the deal has been done and is presumably going through.

A year ago, Sears agreed to sell its Freemans mail order company to Littlewoods for £290m, only to be blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Freemans is worth more to Littlewoods than to anyone else, and in any case it has since slipped into loss. But even so there remain two potential buyers keen to deal. So let's say Freemans can be sold for £200m. The Sears property portfolio is meanwhile conservatively valued at £150m.

All this virtually covers the costs of Philip Green's bid, leaving a not insubstantial retailing business generating profits of £25m a year in for next to nothing. Mr Green is clearly a brilliant wheeler-dealer, but his record of actually running and managing businesses is a good deal more chequered.

So say he sells the retail business too. Whoever named the bid vehicle January Investments Limited must have had a sense of humour, for it has just clinched one of the biggest January sales bonanzas ever. His profit on the whole transaction could be approaching £150m. So why wasn't this value recog-

nised by the stock market? One possible answer is that the market is an imperfect judge of value. But there is a more damning one too. Investors came so much to loathe and despise this company, and its management that they refused to afford it a proper value. Belatedly, but with about as much resolve as a sleeping child, Sears has made a start on its own break-up.

Too little, too late. Sears has been Philip Green's meal ticket for far too long now. First Olympus Sports and then Shoe Express were knocked out to him at what later proved to be bargain basement prices. To have allowed a further £150m of shareholder value to pass into his hands is a terrible indictment of Sir Bob Reid and the rest of the Sears board.

## Wolves/Marston

FOR DAVID THOMPSON, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, this has been a hair-raising couple of weeks. When he launched his bid for Marston, Thompson & Evershed last November, he was aware of the possibility that Marstons would turn

round and bid for him, but he didn't think it likely. Then all of a sudden, he was faced with the possibility of losing his company, which has been in the family for generations. It would be like Rocco losing Forte, only on a smaller scale.

By last night, however, he would have been sleeping a little bit easier. The battle is far from over, but the stock market was strongly indicating that Wolves would win after raising its bid to £289m. The new Wolves bid values each Marston share at 304.5p on last night's closing prices, or not significantly more than the market price of 286.5p. By contrast the Marstons bid for Wolves is valued at 573p a share, a whopping great premium to the Wolves market price of 425p. There is no doubt which bid the market finds more credible.

The market is not always right about these things, but even so, the cards now look to be heavily stacked against the makers of Pedigree bitter. Marstons cannot realistically raise its own offer without undermining its own share price, which in turn may make its own shareholders more prone to accept the Wolves bid.

Obviously, if you are a shareholder in only one of these companies, the choice is an easy one - you either sell in the market or accept the bid. This is because, the combined value of the group can only be a certain defined amount. The bidder must set his offer at a premium to succeed, so the bid always ends up with a disproportionately large share of the cake.

For this reason, it makes no sense for Marstons shareholders to reject the bid and accept their board's defence, since inevitably they would end up overpaying for Wolves. The same arguments apply the other way round.

But as if things were not already confusing enough, the holders of 55 per cent of Marstons own 28 per cent of Wolves and visa versa. For these overlapping shareholders, the calculation has to be which bid in aggregate offers them more value.

This is where it begins to get really complicated, since it involves factoring in the amount of debt in each bid, as well as evaluating the claimed value creation of each offer. But initial calculations in the City seem to be coming down in favour of Wolves.

## IN BRIEF

### Zeneca confident on merger

ZENECA YESTERDAY brushed aside the possibility that its planned £21bn merger with Sweden's Astra to form the third-largest drugs group in the world could be derailed by a counter-bid.

Sir David Barnes, the Zeneca chief executive, told reporters that he did not believe the merger would be derailed by the last-ditch intervention of another bidder. Market rumours have suggested that Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham, the two UK giants, or the Swiss group Roche could move in for Zeneca.

Sir David's comments came as Zeneca revealed a 5 per cent fall to £817m in re-tax profits in the nine months to the end of September.

### Scotland chosen

ISCO SYSTEMS has selected Scotland for its first research and manufacturing facilities outside North America. The giant US Internet group is investing more than £10m in move that will create at least 160 hi-tech jobs.

Sixty staff at the research centre in Edinburgh will develop new Internet software while adapting isco's products for the European market. The manufacturing facility will flow Cisco to shorten delivery times to European customers.

### Eurex shift

UREX, the German-Swiss futures exchange, is preparing to allow London-based firms to become full members next year, according to its chief executive, Dr Jorg Ranke. The move follows complaints from Eurex's 65 London-based members at a meeting with Dr Franke in London yesterday about their second-class status within the exchange.

Dr Franke also said yesterday he was confident of the outcome of a vote at the Chicago Board of Trade on 7 January to agree a global alliance between the Chicago and Frankfurt exchanges, he deal would further dent the ambitions of London's futures exchange, Liffe.

### £270m BT order

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday said it had signed an order with the Swedish telecoms group Ericsson AB for the next generation of high-performance switches to help meet rapid data traffic growth in the UK. BT said the supply deal was potentially worth up to £270m and would secure its network capacity into the next millennium.

### Debt relief move

IF AGENCIES welcomed an initiative yesterday from the German government to boost relief for the world's poorest countries. Gerhard Schröder, the new German chancellor, proposed measures in line with earlier proposals by Gordon Brown, and offered more German funds to allow the IMF to speed up the international debt relief programme.

News Analysis: 'It is quite some achievement. Even football managers last longer'

# Egan to leave Laura Ashley

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

LAURA ASHLEY, the fashion and home furnishings retailer, stunned the City yet again yesterday when it announced a poor Christmas trading statement and the departure of its latest chief executive after just five months in the job.

Victoria Egan, who was only appointed to the position in August, is leaving for "personal reasons" and is expected to return to her native Philippines. Mrs Egan is being replaced by Kwan Cheong Ng, a director of MUI, the Malaysian retailer which rescued Laura Ashley with a £40m cash injection last year.

He becomes the fifth chief executive at the group in the last five years and the seventh since 1990. As one analyst put it: "It is quite some achievement. Even football managers last longer than this."

Commenting on the sudden departure of the 55-year-old Ms Egan, Laura Ashley's commercial director Stephen Cox said: "We would have liked her to stay. She is a very nice lady." Ms Egan, who is married to a British businessman based in the Philippines, will remain at the company for a few weeks to oversee the handover.

Her contract stipulated that she would receive an annual salary of £200,000 but she will receive no compensation.

The news of her departure pushed the company's shares down 0.5p to 12p, their lowest ever level. The retailer, best known for its trademark floral dresses, is now valued at just £45m. Though the business is now debt-free and has the support of its bankers, City experts are still questioning its future.

"There is no form of management structure there and no consistency. I wouldn't want to hold the shares even at these levels," one said.

Analysts are nervous that the constant upheaval of new management is de-stabilising the business which has been rocked by a series of departures. They are concerned that the company does not seem to have decided whether to concentrate mainly on home furnishings or continue with clothing as well.

Laura Ashley claims that the appointment of Mr Ng as chief executive will be a smooth succession and will not mark a shift in strategy as he was already part of the board that sanctioned a three-part action



Victoria Egan, who has resigned as chief executive of Laura Ashley after five months in charge Jim Winslet

programme. The first was to stabilise the finances. It is now rationalising its American store portfolio and addressing its supply chain and product problems before the final phase of "growing the business." It is pulling out of manufacturing and has closed two factories with others still on the market.

A few months ago around 100 jobs were cut at the group's head office in West London.

Laura Ashley has also appointed two new non-executive directors. One is Kay Peng Khoo, chairman and chief executive of MUI. The other is Marion "Pat" Robertson, an American television evangelist and philanthropist who founded the Christian Broadcasting Network and the Family Channel, a television station.

The news came with a downbeat Christmas trading statement which showed that in the eight weeks to 16 January like for like sales fell by 11 per cent with clothing sales particularly weak. The company says the weaker sales are partly due to lower levels of discounting, which has improved margins by 3 percentage points. The group claims discounting levels now stand at 153m, 10 per cent lower than this time last year.

Debits have been eliminated



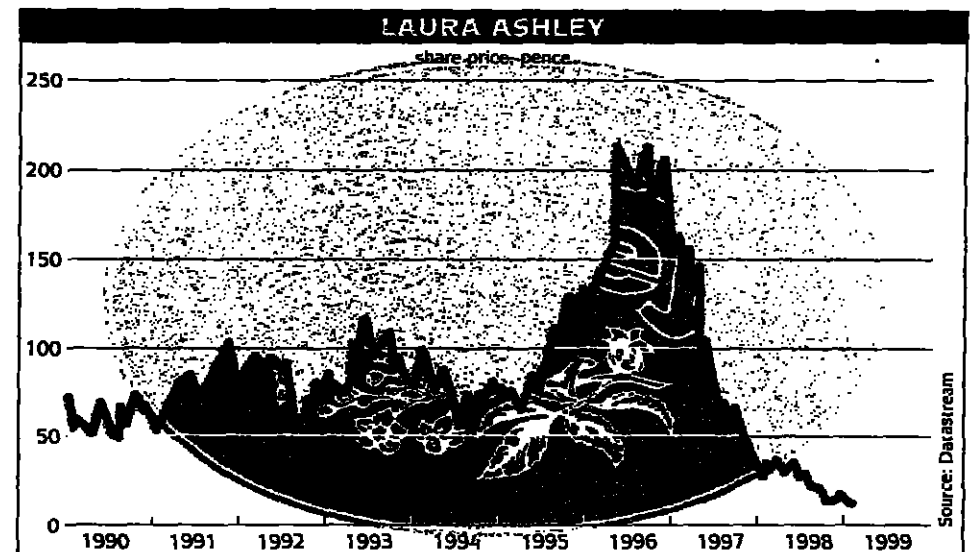
John Thornton: Sat on the board since 1995



Ann Iverson: Ousted after expansion plan failure



Sir Bernard Ashley: No longer on the board



## God's gift to fading fashion house

LAURA ASHLEY has had a few high profile directors in its time but few have been as colourful as "Pat" Robertson, who was announced as a non-executive of the struggling retailer yesterday.

Marion Gordon Robertson, nicknamed "Pat", is a TV evangelist, philanthropist and businessman who unsuccessfully challenged George Bush for the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 1988.

A noted media pioneer, he

is the founder and chairman of the Christian Broadcasting Network. He is also the founder of the Family Channel, a US TV channel and the Regent University in Virginia.

His Christian Broadcast Network runs a web site called The 700 club with Pat Robertson Yesterday its lead issue was "America's Moral Crisis". This said that "one of the largest moral crises we face in America is the proliferation of tolerance for immoral sexual

behaviour. This is evident everywhere we turn - premarital sex, marital infidelity, homosexuality..."

Laura Ashley directors said Mr Robertson did not have any direct retail experience but that this would not necessarily be a problem.

"He is an incredibly successful businessman both in the US and internationally," the company said. "He has terrific business acumen and will be a great asset."



'Pat' Robertson: He will be a 'great asset'

# Nissan calls for euro entry after UK profits tumble

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE JAPANESE car maker, Nissan, yesterday called for early British entry into the euro, after disclosing that the strong pound had wiped out more than half the profits of its Sunderland plant last year.

Profits at Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK fell to about £35m in 1998 compared with £77m the previous year, even though the Wearside factory is now rated as the most efficient

car plant in Europe. Nissan said that most of the damage to profits was caused by the strength of sterling which forced it to cut selling prices abroad.

Calling on the Government to commit itself to membership of the single currency, Sir Ian Gibson, vice president for manufacturing of Nissan in Europe, said: "We do not see much

future for the UK in staying outside the euro."

Last year, production of Primera and Micras at the Sunderland plant reached a record 289,000 of which 75 per cent was exported.

"There is no doubt that having two of our best selling models sourced from Sunderland was painful," Sir Ian added. Despite this, the UK remained one of the few profitable mar-

kets for the troubled Japanese car maker, whose worldwide losses reached £173m for the first six months of the year.

This, coupled with £12.5bn of interest bearing debts has forced Nissan, Japan's second biggest car maker, to seek alliances with other car makers.

There is persistent speculation that Nissan will be taken over by a combination of Ford, DaimlerChrysler and Renault

and earlier this week the company conceded that it was prepared to sell a majority stake.

Sir Ian refused to comment on merger speculation but Nissan executives voiced confidence that the Sunderland plant would not be affected by the parent company's troubles.

Investment in the plant will rise to £1.5bn this year with a £215m expansion to enable the manufacture of a third model -

a replacement for the Almera. This will see production next year rise to about 350,000 and the workforce increase by a further 800 to 5,000.

Nissan aims to increase European sales to 600,000 by 2002 and 70 per cent of those cars will be sourced from the UK. John Cushnaghan, managing director of NMUK, said: "Sunderland is critical to Nissan's European operation. But

we have told the workforce that if we take our eye off the ball this year we will suffer for it in 2000."

Despite the strong pound, Nissan said it had no plans to shift component sourcing abroad. "I don't subscribe to the theory that you change suppliers just because of exchange rates. It could make a monkey of you the next day," said Mr Cushnaghan.



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12 Week				30 Week				52 Week				1 Year			
High	Low	Average	Vol	High	Low	Average	Vol	High	Low	Average	Vol	High	Low	Average	Vol
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 0.62%															
61K	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61L	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61M	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61N	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61O	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
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61Q	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61R	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61S	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61T	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
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61W	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
61X	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
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64F	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64G	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64H	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64I	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64J	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64K	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64L	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64M	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64N	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64O	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64P	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64Q	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64R	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64S	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64T	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64U	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64V	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64W	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64X	350	350	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100	350	350	100	100
64Y	350	350	100	350											

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# Unilever takes knock from Brazilian crisis

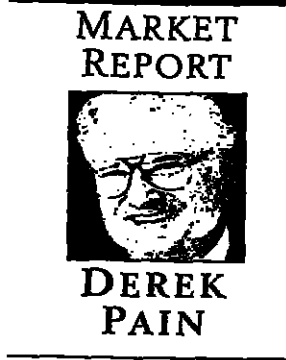
UNILEVER is feeling the chilling impact of the Brazilian devaluation. Shares of the Anglo-Dutch consumer goods giant were one of the poorest performing Footsie constituents, falling 37.5p to 612.5p as some analysts felt obliged to reduce their profit forecasts.

Goldman Sachs, the American securities house, is one which has lowered its estimates following the upheaval in Brazil. Henderson Crosthwaite also turned cautious.

Besides the devaluation hit, Unilever had to contend with Wednesday's disappointing statement from Nestlé. The sprawling Swiss group failed to meet its 4 per cent growth target, a shortfall which could well occur at Unilever, given the similar geographical spreads of the two giants.

Unilever's profits last year are expected to come in around £2bn. Before Brazil's problems materialised the stock market was shooting for about £3.2bn for the current year.

Brazil is a major contributor to the 10 per cent of operating profits the Anglo-Dutch



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

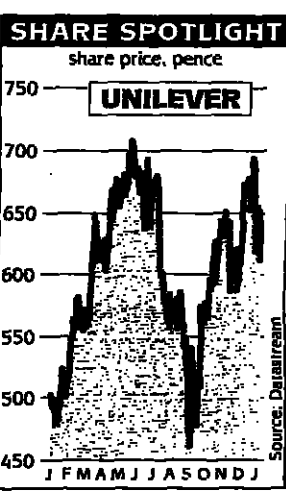
interest in the telecom group from 75 to 45-49 per cent.

HSBC was said to have placed the shares with institutions but it had to struggle to do so. Energis dipped 22.5p to 1,712.5p and Grid dived 9.5p to 543.5p.

The HSBC concern hit Standard Chartered, down 33.5p to 808.5p. Other banking shares were mostly subdued.

Vodafone was again busily traded with the price firming 4p to 1,163p. ScottishPower fell 9.5p to 654.5p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson turned cautious.

Enterprise Oil and Lasmio, talking merger, fell back, although there were suggestions that Repsol may merge into the planned deal. The Spanish group has acquired a near 15 per cent stake in YPF, Argentina's largest company, and has made no secret of its desire to buy into other oil groups. Enterprise fell 8p to 242p and Lasmio 2.75p to 97.25p.



SHARE SPOTLIGHT  
share price, pence

Waverley Mining, where Oxford Resolved is seeking to become the major power, has raised £490,000 selling shares in Perseverance Mining, but is taking action about the sale of a further block of shares which it says it did not authorise. There is a vague talk that Waverley could attract a full bid. Its shares are 6.5p against 132p three years ago.

Corporate Resolve seeks to revive struggling businesses: its shares are 64.5p.

group derives from Latin America.

Until the latest wobble Unilever's shares held up relatively well. They hit a 707p peak last month.

In another hectic session, with turnover once again breaking through 1 billion shares, Footsie failed to hold its gains and ended at 833 points in the red at 8,322.3p. The market was ruffled by US banking chief Alan Greenspan's caution and a seeming split with President Clinton. Worries about Hong Kong's banking health also prompted caution. Supporting indices were weak and Government stocks scored gains of up to 55p.

HSBC, the banking giant, was off 48p (after 6p) to 1,712p on reports that it faced "huge" losses in Thailand. It was claimed the bank's Thai loan portfolio of around \$3bn had been hit by a series of basic mistakes.

"A great complacency sets in when you see these economies grow year after year... We took our eye off the ball," a HSBC executive is quoted as saying.

The banking group is due to reveal its 1998 results next month. Meanwhile it is thought to have won the battle to handle the Energis planing, National Grid wants to reduce its

Granada lost 38.5p to 1,010p, reinforcing talk that it is preparing to make another major takeover strike.

Asda jumped 9p to 156p in busy trading as the monthly Taylor Nelson Sofres survey illustrated a sharp sales advance. Shares of the other big supermarkets gave ground. British Airways settled lower, 15.75p at 359.25p, following disappointing comments from two US airlines.

Sears, the struggling retailer, put on 7p to 354.5p as it capitulated to a 399p bid from the high street tycoon Philip Green. The higher Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries offer for Marston Thompson & Evershed lowered the shares 5p to 288.5p. Marston promptly said no deal.

The stockbroker Henry Cooke Lumsden said yes to a 135p share offer from Brown Shipley, owned by Kreditbank of Luxembourg, and the Oxford-traded shares jumped 65.5p to 130p.

Division, an IT group,

# Menzies profits set to drop

JOHN MENZIES, the news and logistics business, yesterday warned full-year profits would drop in 1999 because of management and systems problems which have hampered its attempt to refocus the company.

Warburg Dillon Read, the house broker, is predicting a fall in profits from £34m to £28m in the year to April because of a big reorganisation in its entertainment distribution arm, Total Home Entertainment (THE).

Menzies is taking a £15m exceptional charge to write down large quantities of unwanted stock at THE and replace a warehouse computer system which had become outdated.

The group has gone through a phase of radical change in the last two years as David Mackay, chief executive, has sought to exit the retail sector and concentrate on wholesaling and logistics.

The strategy is to expand its airport business of cargo handling, trucking and passenger handling, while maintaining its position in newspaper and magazine distribution.

The John Menzies chain of newsagents was sold to its old arch-rival WH Smith last year,

but the group is keeping one retail operation, the loss-making Early Learning Centre. Menzies hopes to return ELC to profit and sell it on within five years.

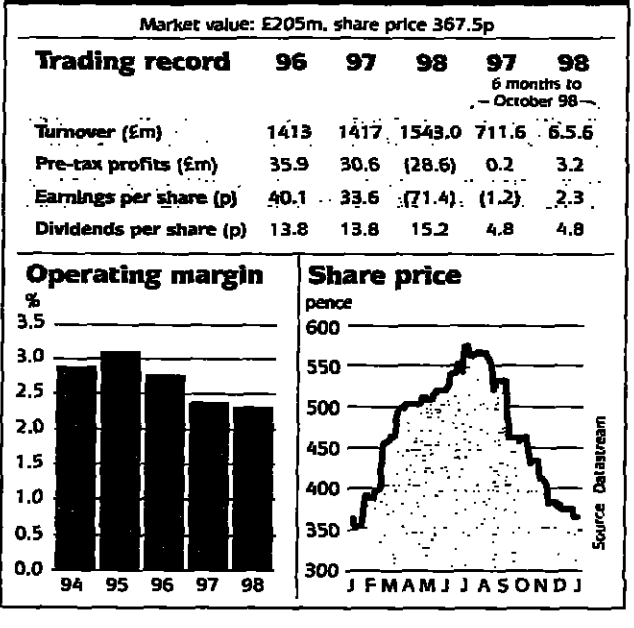
Group pre-tax profits rose from £0.2m to £3m in the six months to October as Menzies eliminated losses at the chain of newsagents. Excluding this, profits fell from £7.6m to £4.8m. The interim dividend was held at 4.6p.

Mr Mackay said: "The process of change is progressing well. Our good progress may have been temporarily overshadowed by the unacceptable situation at THE, but that is being tackled urgently and vigorously."

THE, which distributes videos, CDs, books and games, saw sales and profits reduce as it lost two big contracts with WH Smith and Boots.

Executives yesterday admitted they had "got it wrong" at THE. The range of CDs and videos was too wide, and too much stock was being returned. Only the games business prospered, owing to an

## JOHN MENZIES: AT A GLANCE



exclusive contract to distribute games for the Nintendo 64 entertainment system.

Losses also increased at the Early Learning Centre as it exited from nursery and childrenswear. Menzies said

Christmas was 18 per cent up on the year before.

Mr Mackay has now appointed Iain Callaghan, who heads the group's wholesale division, to shake up THE, while retail director Dermot Jenkinson will step down as an executive director. James Bennett, financial director, will retire due to ill health.

Menzies has succeeded in expanding its transport services, cementing a partnership with Lufthansa to launch the London Cargo Centre in July.

The launch was marred by industry-wide problems such as the Asian economic crisis and difficulties at Hong Kong airport, which depressed revenues at airports. But new contracts have now been won with Qantas and EVA, the Taiwanese airline. Last month, the group announced further business at Manchester airport. The company denied rumours it was interested in bidding for Servisair, the rival logistics group.

Shares closed up 4p yesterday at 367.5p, valuing the group at £205m and putting it on a forward multiple of 11. Analysts said the shares were fully valued.

# Lookers predicts United Assurance tough year ahead

LOOKERS, the motor distributor, yesterday reported a drop in its full-year profits and warned that conditions in the car market would continue to be difficult in the coming year.

In the year to last September the company, which operates a range of car dealerships around Manchester, Liverpool and in Northern Ireland, reported pre-tax profits of £8.6m, down from £9m in the previous twelve months.

The drop was entirely down to Lookers' Agricultural machinery division, which suffered a £600,000 drop in profits as the BSE scandal continued to dent demand from farmers.

However, pressure on car prices also contributed to the slide, by limiting growth in the motors division.

Although new and used car volumes grew by 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, this growth was undermined by lower prices.

"In common with many

other groups in the sector, trading conditions in recent months have been extremely testing," said Craig McKinney, the company's chairman.

Under chief executive Fred Maguire, Lookers has been investing heavily in its distribution network. In the past two years, the company has relocated or overhauled 80 per cent of its mainland dealerships.

This is expected to stand the company in good stead if it attempts to join forces with rival distributors, because Lookers is now more likely to receive the support of manufacturers. However, the company insists that it is not currently in talks.

West L.B. Panmure, Lookers' broker, forecasts that pre-tax profits will drop again to £8m this year, putting the shares, which were unchanged at 75p yesterday, on a forward p/e ratio of less than six.

UNITED ASSURANCE, the door-to-door life insurance company, yesterday released the latest of a long line of disappointing figures when it announced a 9 per cent fall in new business in 1998.

The company said weighted premiums were down to £40.2m from £44.2m in 1997. The figures were in stark contrast to rival offices such as Zurich Financial Services, which reported an 18 per cent rise. Sales at Legal & General, another rival, jumped 21 per cent.

Alan Frost, chief executive, said the figures should be considered in the light of full-year results to be announced next month, a sign the group will maintain its dividend.

United is struggling to emerge from the fall-out of the disastrous merger in 1996 between United Friendly and Refuge Assurance which gave birth to the group. At the time, the merger of the two companies attracted £59.4m in new business between them. Since



Alan Frost: Review to be unveiled next month

then, sales have fallen by 32 per cent.

The merger was piloted by Dr George Mack, who introduced compulsory redundancies to extract cost savings. In two years, the sales force shrank from 6,400 to 4,000. The redundancies spread

disaffection in the group's sales force, which has struggled to maintain productivity. United was also forced to abandon a loss-making attempt to move upmarket by launching a division to sell through independent financial advisers.

Like other door-to-door insurers, United has found it increasingly difficult to sell home service policies - where staff collect premiums from customers' homes. These involve higher charges than ordinary policies, where collection is by direct debit.

Dr Mack resigned in December 1997. The group was leaderless until July, when Alan Frost was hired from Abbey Life, another insurer with poor sales figures. Mr Frost immediately began a full-scale strategic review. Its outcome will be unveiled next month.

Shares in the group held up yesterday, rising 2.5p to 536p. Analysts said there was relief the figures had not been worse.

## New life for old banknotes

THE BANK of England has tried many methods over the years of getting rid of old banknotes - burning, burying, shredding, granulizing, even using them as compost.

Now a start-up company based in Watford has signed an exclusive contract with the Bank to turn old fivers and tens into writing paper.

"Money to Burn" is the brainchild of its chairman, Nick Bradfield, who set the company up 15 months ago with two friends, Rod McPherson, managing director, and Marilyn Pedrick, sales and marketing.

Mr McPherson recalls that Mr Bradfield "was at home with flu and was watching television. He saw a programme about shredding banknotes, and wondered what happened to the remains. He rang the Bank of England, and they gave us a contract. They've been very helpful."

The company is now talking

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

to major retailers about selling its range of "Sterling Stationery", a unique range of notepads, writing paper and envelopes containing authentic shreds of English currency totalling up to ten times the purchase price.

I suppose the moral is that watching daytime television isn't such a waste of time after all.



wood are Alexia Isaac, 34, a pharmaceuticals analyst from Nikko Europe, Tim Young, 33, an insurance analyst from SG Securities, and Thanya Meltzer, 25, from the corporate finance department at Granville.

Meanwhile Glenn Hawke and Paul Cherry are both leaving Capel Curve Sharp, formerly Albert E Sharp, where they were divisional directors, to join Quilter, the private client investment managers. Tim Horrocks also joins Quilter from Henderson Crosthwaite.

## Close call

CLOSE BROTHERS, the closest thing London has left to an independent merchant bank, has nicked corporate finance big

cheese John Barker from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

Mr Barker was a director and global head of engineering at Kleinwort, and he will seek to grow Close's business through its recently acquired corporate finance company in Frankfurt, Freyberg Close.

The bank already has close links with the Continent. One of its mainstays over the years has been its leasing business involving German printing presses.

## Stepping down

THE AMERICAN who last year engineered the takeover of one of Britain's most venerable insurance brokers, Sedgwick, has announced he will retire next year when he reaches 65.

AJC Smith, chairman and chief executive officer of Marsh & McLennan, the giant American financial group, is stepping down in favour of Jeffrey W. Greenberg, currently chairman of Marsh & McLennan Capital.

M&M owns Putnam, an in-

## LME tribute

DAVID KING, chief executive of the London Metal Exchange, called for a minute's silence on the exchange floor yesterday in memory of Ralph Kastenbaum, managing director of Gerald Metals who died on Wednesday night aged 69.

Mr King said: "Ralph had been involved in the world of base metals and the LME for many years, having lived and worked in a number of countries."

The LME boss added that Mr Kastenbaum had played many roles in the recent development and governance of the LME, most recently as a board director and between 1993 and 1997 as vice-chairman.

If you have any news you wish to share with "People and Business" please ring me on 0171 293 2062, or e-mail me on jwillcock@independent.co.uk

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month	Euro
UK	1.0000				0.6052	0.6057	0.6062	0.7006	
Australia	2.5728	2.5708	2.5689	1.5570	1.5571	1.5573	1.8025		
Canada	19.640	19.621	19.598	1.1880	1.1881	1.1883	13.7035		
Denmark	57.578	57.441	57.209	34.846	34.792	34.682	40.340		
France	2.5003	2.4985	2.4964	1.5132	1.5133	1.5135	1.7418		
Germany	10.617	10.598	10.567	6.4123	6.4121	6.4081	7.4398		
Italy	1.4273	1.4239	1.4182	1.1577	1.1593	1.1632	1.0000		
Japan	8.4865	8.4660	8.4321	5.1390	5.1278	5.1118	5.9457		
Netherlands	2.305	2.300	2.295	1.6663	1.6663	1.6663	1.6663		
Portugal	279.16	278.49	277.37	1.6893	1.6868	1.6815	1.9558		
Spain	166.36	166.79	166.79	2.7468	2.7468	2.7468	32.729		
Sweden	460.72	460.72	460.72	2.7468	2.7468	2.7468	8.9701		
Switzerland	1.2803	1.2802	1.2802	0.6702	0.6702	0.6702	0.7876		
Thailand	1.1241	1.1214	1.1168	0.6702	0.6702	0.6702	1.7770		
Taiwan	27.873	27.873	27.873	1.1332	1.1332	1.1332	1.7172		
US	1.0000			1.0000			1.1577		

INTEREST RATES									
Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	6.00%								
US	5.25%								
Germany	3.50%								
France	3.50%								
Italy	3.50%								
Spain	3.50%								
Sweden	3.50%								
Switzerland	3.50%								
Japan	3.40%								
South Africa	3.40%								
Canada	3.40%								
India	3.40%								
China	3.40%								
South Korea	3.40%								
Thailand	3.40%								
Malaysia	3.40%								
Indonesia	3.40%								
Philippines	3.40%								
Vietnam	3.40%								
Myanmar	3.40%								
Burma	3.40%								
Laos	3.40%								
Cambodia	3.40%								
Timor	3.40%								
Brunei	3.40%								
Singapore	3.40%								
Maldives	3.40%								
Sri Lanka	3.40%								
Nepal	3.40%								
Bhutan	3.40%								
Maldives	3.40%								
Sri Lanka	3.40%								
Nepal	3.40%								
Bhutan	3.40%								

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor volume	Open interest	Contract	Settlement	High	Low
Long Gilt	Mar-99	120.08	120.16	119.57	43226.00	111533.00	5 Yr Gilt	Mar-99	109.13
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98
3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	97.02	97.04	97.02	62131.00	40950.00	3 Mth Euribor	Mar-99	96.98

INDUSTRIAL METALS									
LME (\$/tonne)	Cash	Chg	3 month	Chg	LME (\$/tonne)	Cash	Chg	3 month	Chg
Aluminium	1205	1206	-2.00	1209	1210	1	77325	3200	
Aluminium Alloy	1022	1022	11.00	1048	1050	4	91020	2100	
Copper	1445	1447	5.00	1472	1474	4	91215	2175	
Lead	490	492	5.00	493	495	3	106125	-100	
Nickel	4295	4305	-15.00	4365	4370	-15	65586	-24	
Tin	5143	5150	20.00	5170	5125	15	7850	-125	
Zinc	947.5	948.5	17.00	966	967	16	319450	-425	



## SPORT

Tennis: 'If the Grand Slam record is important to Pete, then he has to win one this year' says the great Australian

## Emerson's warning for Sampras

IAN  
STAFFORD

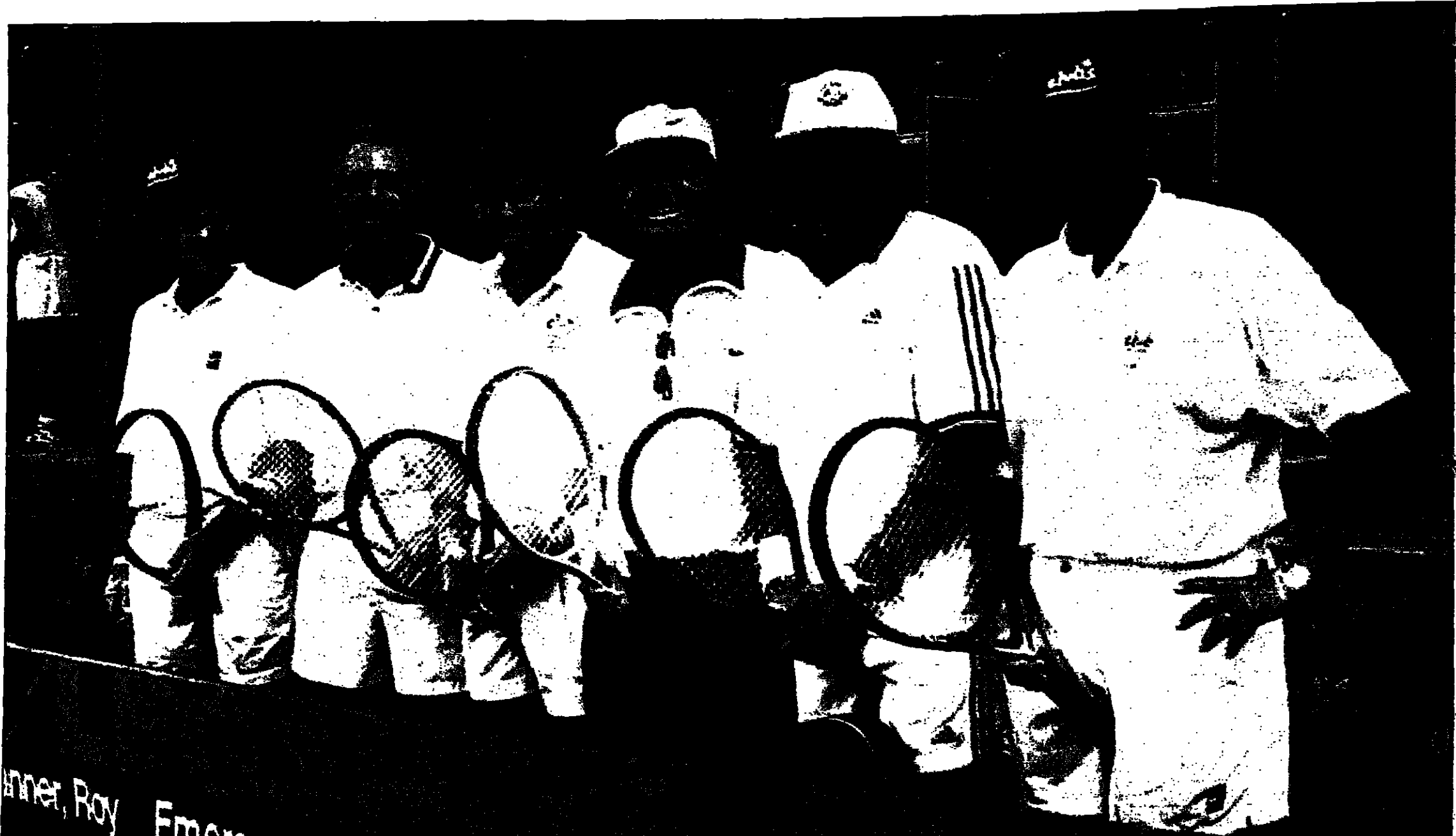
THAT PETE SAMPRAS is missing from the Australian Open provided every other top player with an improved chance of securing one of the world's major tournaments. What may not have been considered quite as much is that the American's absence gives Sampras one fewer opportunity to equal the record of Grand Slam singles titles.

This, still, is held by Roy Emerson, the big, burly Australian with the ferocious backhand and fiercely competitive spirit. He believes that time is running out for the 27-year-old Sampras. "If the Grand Slam record is important to Pete, then he has to win one this year," he believes. "It's getting harder and harder for him and, although you have to still fancy him at Wimbledon, he can't afford to lose out at too many more Grand Slam tournaments."

In a career that spanned the circuit for 14 years, beginning in 1954, Emerson won 12 Grand Slam singles titles. He was no mean doubles player either, picking up a further 16 titles in Grand Slam tournaments. He cannot see his collective record ever being broken. "I think my 28 titles will be there for kingdom come," he says. "But, if my singles record is there to be matched, Pete [who is one behind] has got to get a move on."

Emerson, now 62, is keeping a close watch on proceedings from one of his three homes in Newport Beach, California, Gstaad, in Switzerland, and Aventura, Florida, where he is the director of tennis at Williams Island. He still plays and, indeed, featured in the recent St Lucia Tennis Legends Tournament at the Odyssey International. "I'd like to hold the singles record forever," he is more than happy to admit. "But if I am to share it, or lose it to someone, I'd be happy if it was Sampras."

Why? "I just think he's been a terrific ambassador for the sport," Emerson explains. "He conducts himself in the right way both on and off the court, and I like his graceful style. At least compared to others today."



Roy Emerson (right), the winner of 12 Grand Slam singles titles, lines up with fellow tennis veterans (from left) Ross Case, Roger Taylor, Roscoe Tanner, Tom Okker and Ilie Nastase in St Lucia while (below) the player in his pomp: "There's no question in my mind that the likes of myself, Laver, Sedgeman, Hoad, Rosewall, would, if we played the stars today, have lived with them" David Puschel

This is a veiled criticism, of course, of the thumping show of strength on the courts today, especially from the men. "I think the new racquets have definitely improved the women's game, but they have also taken away far too much finesse from the men's game," he says. "It has become too repetitious, and the men just don't have to work so hard for their points anymore. Tennis is not the exciting spectacle it once was."

Like, perhaps, in Emerson's day? Most would argue that the great players of the 1950s, 60s and even the 70s would struggle to keep up with today's stars. They would simply be overpowered by the strength and speed of the champions of the 1990s. The six times former winner of the Australian Open, and twice winner of Wimbledon, the US and French Opens, disagrees.

"There's no question in my mind that the likes of myself, Laver, Sedgeman, Hoad, Rosewall, Santana and so on would, if we played the stars today, have lived with them. We might have been asked to stay back more on the baseline than we did, and develop top-spin more, but we would have coped with that, no problem. I don't believe they are any fitter today. Don't forget, we never had any tie-breaks, and every game was played to the best of five sets."

"What I will say is that the players today are asked to perform on all kinds of surfaces that beat up your body more. I wouldn't have played that. Also, the variety of surfaces poses more questions."

"When I was at my height three of the four Grand Slam tournaments were played on grass. Only the French Open

was on clay. It took me a long time to get to grips with a clay court. I was pitiful to begin with. In the end, I probably preferred it to grass. These days the players have to adapt to grass, clay, rubber and hard court. You probably have to be more of a complete player."

"I will also concede that the competition is stiffer. In my day the top 20 was dominated by Australian and American players. Now the Europeans and South Americans are also strong."

Which is why Emerson feels that the domination Sampras has enjoyed for so much of the 1990s has come to an end. "I think he has to win a Grand Slam this year, or not at all," he says. "Now that the Australian's gone, I think Wimbledon will be his best, possibly his last, chance to equal my record."

It's getting to the stage where I can't see him beating it, although it is up to him.

"Pete's made a lot of good money, and achieved everything there is to in the game. The question is, is he prepared to endure the daily grind required to be a defending champion who has already climbed the mountain?"

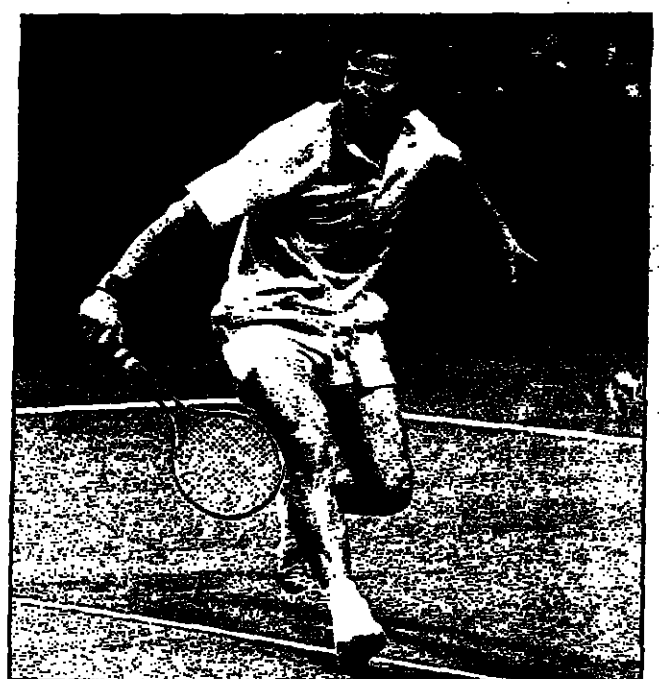
"Others are catching him up, or have already caught him. A lot of the boys think they can beat him now. Whenever they play Pete they feel they have nothing to lose and raise their game. Losing to Pete is not a disaster, so everyone plays well against him. It's a terrific effort to be the world No 1 for six, consecutive years, but the bottom line is that he doesn't intimidate players anymore."

Emerson played in a time recognised to be one of the great periods of world tennis. Of

all the great players he faced and beat, he still, not surprisingly, rates his countryman, Rod Laver, to be the best.

"I tried to emulate Frank Sedgeman in the way I played," he admits. "But, for me, Laver was the best. He possessed more skills and strokes than the others, but what really made him stand out was his mental strength. Laver was never beaten until the final point had been lost. He became even tougher once he turned professional. I would have loved to have seen him take on the likes of Sampras. Then again, I'd like to be playing the game today as well. Maybe Laver and I could have added a little finesse."

Maybe it's still not too late? Emerson laughs. "My forehead these days is pathetic," he says. "But I'll tell you something, I still never miss a backhand."



## Goldstein's dramatic introduction

"SO WHO'S Paul Goldstein?" he was asked at a press conference. "Paul Goldstein is from Rockville, Maryland. He has two of the most supportive parents in the world, two wonderful brothers and he's feeling pretty good right now," he shot back.

Goldstein has hung out with Tiger Woods, counts Chelsea Clinton as a friend, quotes John McEnroe and beat Greg Rusedski at the Australian Open yesterday.

"He's been playing for five or six months on the professional tour and, yes, he's feeling pretty good right now," Goldstein said of himself after scheming, running and diving his way to a 6-4, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2 victory over the Briton in their second-round match.

A little-known American with some famous friends has overcome Greg Rusedski. By Derrick Whyte

Goldstein, 22, who has a degree in human biology from Stanford University, said he had delayed his entrance to the tennis tour until he felt mature enough.

He is from Rockville, Maryland, and was a school-mate of the president's daughter, who cheered him on at a tournament in Washington last July.

At Stanford, McEnroe's alma mater, he helped its tennis team to four consecutive NCAA titles. When Goldstein was asked to explain how some decent results in Challengers and an unspectacular college career can lead a man to beat

a top-10 player in only his 10th tour-level match, he merely said: "Your guess is as good as mine."

What Goldstein achieved by staying in school instead of taking his light frame on to the tour as a teen was to prepare himself away from the spotlight.

"My body still has a lot of maturing to do," Goldstein said. "And at the point of 18, 19, 20 I just don't think I was ready for the rigours of the tour, either physically or mentally."

He was forced to come through qualifying to make the main draw at the Australian

Open, his first Grand Slam experience outside of three brief trips to Flushing Meadows. Last year, he took a set off Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in the second round of the US Open.

At 5ft 10in and 11st 1lb, Goldstein is a junior middleweight to the 6ft 4in, 13st 8lb heavyweight Rusedski. But, when it came to serve, it was a contest between a flyweight and a heavyweight.

While Rusedski kept pounding serves of around 128 mph, Goldstein replied with modest efforts peaking with a best of 109 mph. So the American had

to use his Stanford brain instead of his less-than-powerful arms. "I kind of went in with the approach that a made return was a good return," he said.

"He's got a world-class serve, one of the top two or three in the game. I just relied on my counter punching and scrambling on the return games."

Without power, Goldstein needed accuracy on his serve. He spent a lot of time tumbling around as Rusedski attacked him, but seemed to enjoy it.

"That Rebound Ace [the playing surface] has a nice little cushion and I was thinking I might have some bloody marks, but after the first one it didn't hurt too bad."

Goldstein said he has a long way to go before he has the



Goldstein: Tactics

earning power of a Woods or the game of a McEnroe. It's a good start to a career, but it's also something more. "Tennis is a fun game," he told reporters. "You guys all should play."

## Kournikova's faulting farce

THE WOMEN'S Tennis Association does not keep records for double faults, but Anna Kournikova must be pretty close to setting one. The 19-year-old Russian, who normally makes the news because of her good looks and powerful all-court game, hit 21 double faults in her 1-6, 6-4, 10-8 victory over Miho Saeki of Japan yesterday.

Added to the 26 she served in her first-round match against the American Jill Craybas, it makes a staggering 57 for the Australian Open in Melbourne, in addition to the 34 she served in two matches in Sydney last week - 91 for the year so far in just four matches.

It was one of most feeble and unintentionally comical matches of all time, and the packed crowd groaned and booed, laughed and whistled through every excruciating moment. That Kournikova won illustrated the way both players performed. Between them they made 149 unforced errors with 21 breaks of service.

After dropping the first set against the 80th-ranked Japanese, Kournikova rallied to take the second and open up a 5-0 lead in the third. She then had two match points but blew them both - on double faults.

The problem started in October at successive tournaments in Filderstadt and Zurich when she started averaging 15 double faults per match. Then,

she looked close to tears, but in Melbourne she seems relaxed about her serving displays.

"It has been happening for a while, so I am kind of used to it," she said with a smile. "I'm really frustrated with it, just like everybody who is watching. In practice I feel fine, I serve normal, and there's no sign of double faults - it's just when I come to the line, when I play, there's something happening, so I'm just going to have to get over it and try to fight through."

While Kournikova scraped through the No 4 seed, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, crashed out 6-2, 6-2 to Barbara Schett, the Austrian prospect who came within two points of beating Martina Hingis in Sydney last week. Schett humbled the reigning French Open champion, and suggested afterwards that the Spaniard was getting left behind by today's generation of power players. "I don't think you'll see too many new players who play like her," she said.

Steffi Graf also lost the opening set before coming through against Barbara Schwartz. It was relatively comfortable again for Monica Seles and the defending champion, Martina Hingis. Seles stretched her unbeaten record in the championship to 30 matches by beating Alexia Dechaume-Balleret while Hingis, chasing her third successive title, defeated the qualifier Elena Dementieva.

## Agassi's progress hints at former glories

ANDRE AGASSI showed he is ready to make the most of a potentially trouble-free route to the Australian Open semi-finals when he beat the Czech Slave Dosedel 7-6, 6-2, 6-0 yesterday. The American fifth seed and 1995 champion produced glimpses of his former brilliance as he grew in confidence after a slightly subdued start to reach the third round.

"It took me a while to settle into the match and then it felt quite good," Agassi said.

Perhaps most significant was the way he was able to combat the Czech's serve in a

By Derrick Whyte

performance evoking memories of a few years ago when the Las Vegas had a reputation as the best service returner in the game. Last year Agassi came to Melbourne looking a shadow of his former self but still managed to reach the fourth round as he attempted to battle back from the low point of his career in late 1997.

Then, he had slipped to No 141 and the former Wimbledon and US Open champion was forced to play in Challenger events to win time on court and regain his

old form. This time, Agassi has been installed by local bookmakers as equal favourite with Mark Philippoussis.

The loss of seeds has worked in his favour with Agassi the sole seed left in his quarter of the draw after the early exits of Spaniards Carlos Moya and Albert Costa and Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

The withdrawal of top seed Marcelo Rios through injury and the absence of Agassi's old rival Pete Sampras through fatigue means Agassi's only real hurdle before the final is likely to be either a match against

Yevgeny Kafelnikov or Todd Martin.

"I certainly don't mind that Pete's not here," Agassi said. "I'm not a bright guy but I'm not stupid."

Petr Korda, unseeded after falling to 20th in the world rankings and the man who failed a drugs test at Wimbledon last July, is still proving unpopular with the crowds. Korda, let off a one-year ban and penalised only the prize and ranking points he earned, was on the receiving end of comments from the crowd during his straight-sets victory

over the Spaniard Julian Alonso, who, unlike compatriot Galo Blanco in the first round, did at least shake hands afterwards.

"Some of the fans were using improper (sic) words - something insulting," Korda said. He refused to say exactly what was said, but there was at least one audible shout of "cheat" during the match. "I don't want to talk about it. It didn't bother me."

The fifteenth seed, Todd Martin, came perilously close to tumbling out at the first hurdle yesterday, scraping through against the 61st ranked Brazil-

ian Fernando Meligeni, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1. The American early on showed little of the devastating form which won him the Sydney International last week-end and lifted him to No 13 in the world.

He knocked volleys into the net and sent groundstrokes sailing out of court, while the Brazilian hit the lines with pinpoint accuracy, forcing Martin to stay on the baseline throughout the first two sets.

"It was tougher than I was hoping for, but not necessarily tougher than I was expecting," Martin said.

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Friday 22 January 1999

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Rodman his retire

Dennis Rodman has changed his mind and decided not to retire after all. The NBA's most colourful player posted a message on his Internet site yesterday announcing his decision and his agent, Dwight Manley, confirmed that the player wants to return to professional basketball.

"I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and these options still include playing in the NBA this season with a contender Chicago, New York Knicks, Manley, who had sent Rodman, said he had spoken with the player yesterday. "It's true," Manley said of Rodman's change of heart.

If the Bulls were to resuscitate a sign-and-trade deal for Rodman, they had to do so by





# England to carry on in sober fashion

THIS IS some one-day series. It began with a controversy which refuses to go away about a bowler having a crooked arm. Now there is a scandal which will probably have similar mileage about a batsman being legless.

The first involves the Sri Lankan bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan, who continues to be the subject of blatant innuendo about his bowling action. It is still being widely suggested that he may be called for throwing by one or other of the umpires in his side's match against England in Adelaide tomorrow. But at least some of the heat has been taken out of the Murali debate by the dropping from the Australian team of the batsman, Ricky Ponting, after he was struck in the eye while on an early-morning drinking session. Ponting, who is sporting a bony shiner after the incident in a Sydney bar, made every Australian front page after the incident became public and is waiting to hear if he is to receive further punishment from the Australian Cricket Board.

He has admitted that he has a tendency to drink too much occasionally and fierce arguments are now being mounted about whether players should be banned from imbibing alcohol before and after games. This might be a tad embarrassing since the tournament sponsors, Carlton & United, are brewers. It is not known if Ponting had been keeping his wares on the night in question.

Spotlessly clean England, and everywhere you go this squad's politeness and good manners are mentioned, meanwhile, keep on winning matches. If they defeat Sri Lanka tomorrow they will have won five from six. The only way they could then fail to qualify for the finals is if they lose the rest while Australia and Sri Lanka also continue to win five matches

CRICKET  
BY STEPHEN BRECKLEY  
in Adelaide

(possible but not likely) and lose out on net run-rate.

Their captain, Alec Stewart, is the archetypal pro and was taking nothing for granted while counting no chickens. "I would say we have broken the back of it, playing our first five games in 10 days. We have now got down to two or three days between each game."

England have arrived at a strategy which gives them their best chance of winning matches in Australia. It seems to have been achieved partly by design, partly by accident - Graeme Hick asked to bat at No 3 while the selectors were just about to request him to do it - and mainly embraces the revolutionary concept in one-day games of playing orthodox cricket.

True, the openers will try to take advantage of the fielding restrictions which apply in the first 15 overs, but they are conscious, too, of the importance of not losing wickets then, a trait which has had a debilitating effect on Sri Lanka. England are attempting to stack up singles and twos in the middle part of the innings and then have enough wickets left for a big bash at the end.

It will not work perfectly every time but it is a sensible policy. They may decide that something different should apply on the spring pitches of England in the World Cup but the present balance between bat and ball seems somehow more appropriate.

Sri Lanka's win over Australia in Hobart has opened up the group slightly but England have still gone from the least fancied side to favourites. Their greatest enemy, neither Stewart nor Darren Gough

would lightly miss an England game but they have been in Australia since October and whatever the sparkling images of fitness and enthusiasm they both convey they must be feeling tired. Resting Gough at least for a match or two before the finals must be an option.

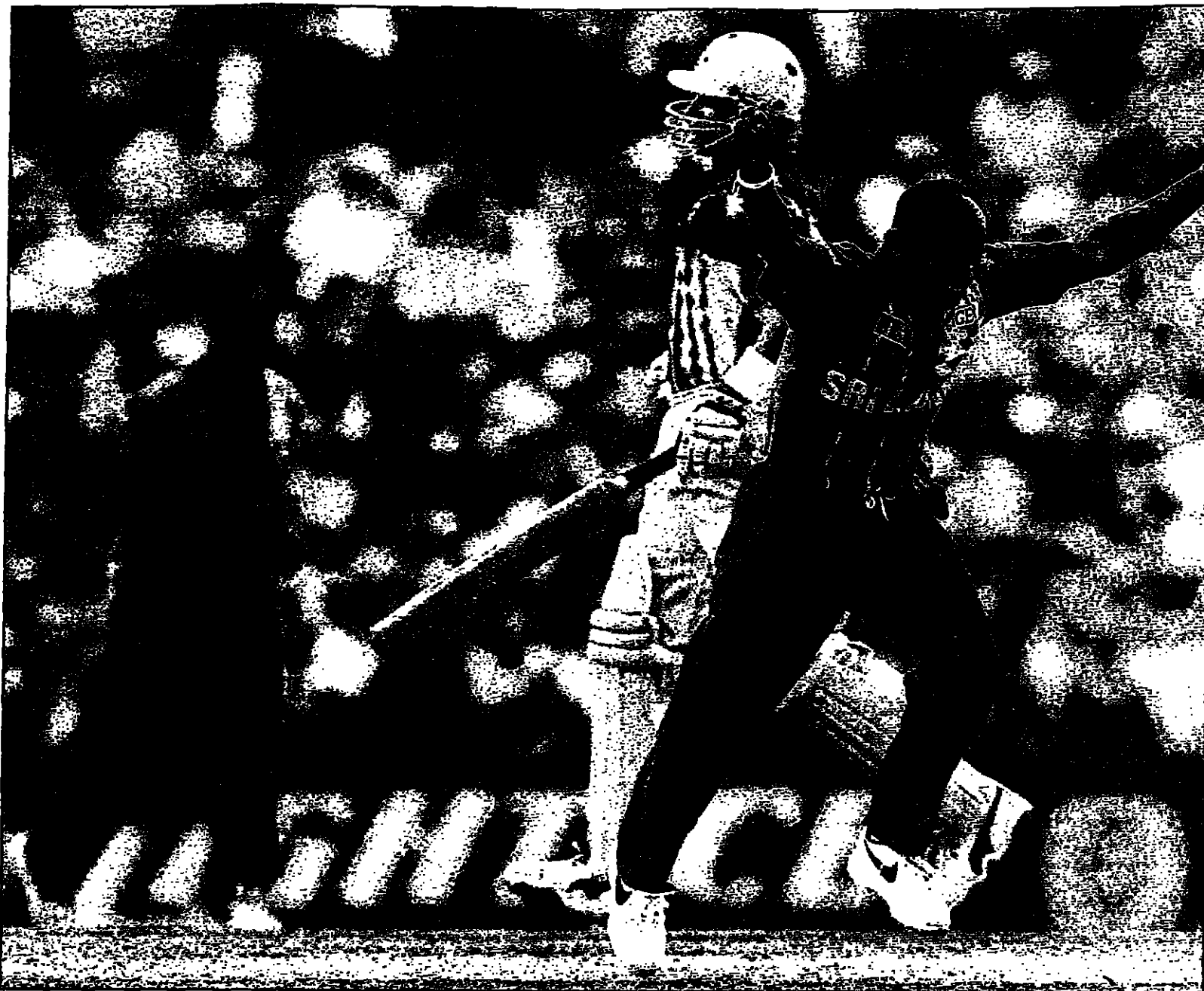
First, they have to qualify. In addition to which the tour manager, David Graveney, offered wise words of caution. "These are all one-day internationals after all and there is a case for always picking what you think is the best side for every match. And there is the importance of not letting a winning sequence slip."

England have fallen into the habit of not naming their side until shortly before the match in this tournament, making much of the point that they are picking from 16. But the likelihood for the first match here is that Neil Fairbrother will return if his tight hamstring has mended and that Dean Headley could return.

John Crawley, who batted neatly to help win the last match against Sri Lanka, and Vince Wells, who, sadly, barely managed to get into the game, will probably stand down. Sri Lanka will have received an immense, not to say much-needed boost to their confidence after their three-wicket victory over Australia.

They should be more like their old selves despite the pressure on Murali and the probable continued absence of Aravinda de Silva. These are contentious times and it is at least welcome that the triangular tournament involves three teams again.

England's scheduled four-day match against Mashonaland was abandoned without play yesterday because of the water-logged state of the Old Hararians ground. Two replacement one-day matches have been planned.



Sanath Jayasuriya celebrates dismissing Australia's Mark Waugh during Sri Lanka's first triangular win in Hobart yesterday

Reuters

## Australia beaten as Sri Lanka end run

SRI LANKA, the World Cup champions, yesterday broke a run of eight successive one-day defeats when they beat Australia by three wickets in Hobart for their first win of the Carlton & United Series.

Marvan Atapattu struck 82 and Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, shrugged off injury to hit an unbeaten 45 as Sri Lanka reached their target of 211 with three deliveries of their 50 overs to spare. A late slump in which five wickets tumbled for 35 threatened Sri Lanka's victory ambitions, but they were not to be denied after Australia made 210 for 9 in their 50 overs.

Australia 210-9  
Sri Lanka 211-7  
Sri Lanka win by three wickets

Ranatunga, limping noticeably after straining a calf muscle while fielding on a soft Bellerive Oval, needed a runner but his 61-ball innings ensured his side's success after they slipped from 163 for 3 to 198 for 7. The leg-spinner Shane Warne, who finished with 3 for 45 off his 10 overs, and the pace bowler Glenn McGrath, with 1 for 33 off his 10, did the damage.

Sri Lanka had been put on course for victory by a 116-run second-wicket partnership off

71 balls between Atapattu and the opener Romesh Kaluwitharana, who struck 54. Atapattu's 82 came off 121 balls in 168 minutes and included six fours.

England lead the tri-nation series on eight points, with Australia on four and Sri Lanka, who have a match in hand, on two. The top two qualify for the best-of-three finals.

Australia went into the match without Ricky Ponting, who was dropped after being involved in a fight outside a Sydney nightclub. Adding to their problems were injuries to Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan.

Waugh was unable to field

after suffering a recurrence of the hamstring injury that kept him out of the early matches of the series. He felt a sharp twinge as he was running between wickets during his innings of 20.

Team officials said it was in the same area of his left leg as his old injury and he was almost certain to miss Australia's next two matches of the series, against Sri Lanka on Sunday and England on Tuesday.

Bevan suffered a minor strain to his right groin, saying he felt it while batting and then aggravated it in the field. He was replaced by the Tasmanian bowler, Damien Wright.

Ranatunga was thrilled with the win. "I thought we batted really well, then panicked a little in the middle. I was a bit worried towards the end," he said.

Earlier Mark Waugh and Darren Lehmann posted half-centuries in Australia's modest total. Waugh top-scored with 65 and Lehmann made 51 in the most significant partnership of the innings - 93 for the third wicket. Both survived chances as the Sri Lankans missed numerous catches, but once they were parted Australia's batting struggled.

Scoreboard, Table, Digest, page 27

## Hindu nationalists lift tour threat

WASIM AKRAM, the Pakistan captain, yesterday expressed relief that right-wing Hindu nationalists had lifted a threat to disrupt his country's tour of India. "The players were really worried but I am sure that this news is going to make them very easy and comfortable. It is definitely going to take quite a lot of pressure off their heads," he said.

Wasim was speaking after India announced that the Hindu Shiv Sena party had withdrawn a threat to disrupt the tour by Pakistan. The threat had caused serious concerns on

BY BRIAN MCKENNA  
in New Delhi

both sides of the border. "It's great for us to be in India," Shahrayar Khan, the team manager, told a press conference soon after Pakistan arrived in New Delhi amid tight security. "Never in the history of cricket has a team arrived in such a daunting atmosphere. I hope they get the welcome they deserve across India," Shahrayar said.

Pakistan travel to Gwalior today for the three-day tour opener against India A, starting tomorrow. The first Test starts in Madras on 28 January and the second will be played at New Delhi from 4 February.

India, meanwhile, have unveiled a new-look squad to face Pakistan in the first Test. The opening bat Navjot Sidhu and the vice-captain Ajay Jadeja have been dropped from the team that lost the recent Test series in New Zealand as two new caps join the 14-man squad. The all-rounder Laxmi Ratan Shukla and the opening batsman Sadeeggon Ramesh are the fresh faces contesting a place in Mohammad Az-

haruddin's team to kick off the first Test series against a Pakistan side in India for 12 years. "We thought youngsters should get a chance," Ajit Wadekar, the selection committee chairman, said. "We found Jadeja wanting against swing bowling and youngsters have shown good performances in domestic cricket."

The fast bowler Ajit Agarkar, nursing an injury, has also been left out for the first Test. INDIA SQUAD (First Test v Pakistan): M Azharuddin (capt), S R Tendulkar, S C Ganguly, R S Dhoni, V V S Laxman, J Srinath, N R Mongia (wicket), H Singh, S B Joshi, S Ramesh, N H Kamble, L R Shukla, Venkatesh Prasad, A Kumble.

## Rodman calls off his retirement

DENNIS RODMAN has changed his mind and decided not to retire after all. The NBA's most colourful player posted a message on his Internet site yesterday announcing his decision and his agent, Dwight Manley, confirmed that the player wants to return to professional basketball.

"I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and those options still include playing in the NBA this season with a contender. Chicago, New York and LA are all cities I'd like to play in. Playing overseas could be pretty cool, too."

Rodman had announced his retirement on Tuesday as rumours spread that he was about to be traded to the New York Knicks. Manley, who had said he would no longer represent Rodman, said he had spoken with the player yesterday. "It's true," Manley said of Rodman's change of heart.

If the Bulls were to resuscitate a sign-and-trade deal for Rodman, they had to do so by

BASKETBALL

yesterday's deadline. Chicago were expected to renounce their rights to Michael Jordan and complete sign-and-trade deals for Scottie Pippen (to Houston), Luc Longley (to Phoenix) and Steve Kerr (to San Antonio). Chicago may be ready to make a deal with the Knicks, trading Rodman for Buck Williams.

"I've had some long discussions with the people I love, the ones whose opinions matter most to me, and I've decided not to retire after all," Rodman announced on his website. "I know yesterday I said I was history and, with the NBA lock-out and everything going on, I really thought I should stop playing."

He added: "I still have to come back for at least one more game so that I can get buck naked on the court."

The 37-year-old Rodman won titles with Chicago in 1996, 1997 and 1998, and with the Detroit Pistons in 1989 and 1990.

## Williams makes amends for Wales

MARK WILLIAMS, beaten in the deciding frame when Wales were knocked out of the 1996 World Cup, made amends by keeping his country's Nations Cup challenge alive in Newcastle yesterday.

Williams, no stranger to tight finishes, having sunk a resplendent black to edge out Stephen Hendry in this year's Benson & Hedges Masters final, held his nerve to put the seal on a 6-5 Welsh victory over Northern Ireland.

"What happened in Bangkok was on my mind, and I was shaking all over," said Williams, referring to his defeat to Thailand's James Wattana in an equally tense climax to the World Cup quarter-final.

Northern Ireland led 2-0 but trailed 3-2 when they put together a three-frame spurt which threatened to scupper any hopes of Wales appearing in Sunday's final.

Jason Prince had a 40 break in overcoming Williams before veteran Dennis Taylor brought

SNOOKER

his vast experience to bear. The 1985 world champion, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Tuesday, ground out a 39-minute singles triumph over Matthew Stevens before a 52 break helped him and partner Terry Murphy win a vital doubles contest.

That pushed Northern Ireland into a 5-3 lead and onto the verge of chalking up their second success of the week, having beaten England 6-5 on Monday. But Williams then sneaked past Murphy with a last red to blue clearance which launched the Welsh revival.

It continued when Stevens shaded Prince on the blue in frame 10 and was completed when Williams retained sufficient composure to clear yellow to blue in the deciding, after potting a crucial green from distance. The Welsh quartet must now beat England tomorrow to guarantee an appearance in the final.



## TOMORROW

'Let's imagine that when Eric Cantona called it a day after winning a second Double with Manchester United, he took Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Roy Keane, Paul Scholes and Peter Schmeichel with him. Oh, and Alex Ferguson.' RICHARD WILLIAMS on the break-up of the Chicago Bulls

THE INDEPENDENT

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THE CHICKEN

DON'T TRY IT  
WITH BASIL

DON'T SUCCUMB  
TO THE TART

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**Julian Herbert/Allsport**

ry of niggling problems and anything that may occur at this time of year is not ideal for Guinness preparation."

1,000 GUINEAS: William Hill: 4-1 Bird Air  
1-10 Bionic, 10-1 Moiva, 12-1 Etzazze  
16-1 Crystal Charm, 20-1 others.

AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE: Paddy  
Dy Power: 8-15 Istabraq, 2-1 French Holly  
1-2 Theatreworld, Zetabroad, 50-1 Black  
Queen, 66-1 Shantirani. "With a run: No  
made 8-1, Commence Court 10-1, Bionic  
12-1, Zetabroad: 4-7 Istabraq, 10-1  
10-1 Zetabroad, 22-1 Theatreworld, 100-1  
Black Queen. "With a run: 12-1 Nomo  
14-1 Commence Court, 96-1 Shantirani.

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**RESULTS**

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# Absent Saib to feel Graham's force

MOUSSA SAIB could be on his way out of White Hart Lane after defying George Graham and flying to join the Algerian national squad for their friendly against Tunisia on Sunday.

George Graham will contact the Football Association for guidance on dealing with the midfielder's "disappearing" act. The Tottenham manager said: "He has shown a lack of respect to the club and the fans and without question, he'll be seriously disciplined."

Saib, the Algerian captain, who was signed by Graham's predecessor Christian Gross for

BY BILL PIERCE

£3m from Valencia less than a year ago, has only recently returned to training after a back operation in September and after just two games in the reserves to step up his rehabilitation programme he was refused permission to link up with the Algerian squad.

But after discovering that Saib had disregarded that order, Graham said: "I'm extremely disappointed with the boy and also the Algerian FA, who have not given us any feedback on our message to

them that he is not medically right to play at that level yet."

"What our fans will want to know is why isn't Saib available for Tottenham and yet suddenly pops up to play in Algeria. He has played only a game and a half in the reserves after a big operation on his back in September."

"He has been very well looked after here and that's what makes what he has done so disappointing. I'm contacting the FA for guidance about how we deal with this kind of situation. We told Saib he could not have permission to go to

Algeria but then he's just decided to disappear."

Saib, who made only made sporadic appearances in the first-team last season, will now face a hefty fine but could also be placed on the transfer list.

Graham has a formidable track record of dealing with players who do not toe the line and there is no doubt he feels this is a major betrayal by Saib.

Graham said: "It's the kind of problem you sometimes get when you sign foreign players but I'm certainly not going to just accept it."

This new problem with a

foreign player has not stopped Spurs eyeing up the French defender, Alain Goma. "I've been interested in Goma for some time but there are difficulties in trying to get him here," Graham said.

Paris St-Germain are believed to be holding out for a £2m-plus fee for a player who has already indicated that he will be leaving them at the end of the season.

John Gregory yesterday shrugged off Stan Collymore's complaints about not getting in the Aston Villa team. Collymore, 28 today, has made it

clear he is unhappy at not being a regular in the starting line-up. He has been left on the bench for six of his side's last eight games but Gregory, the Villa manager, said: "I haven't got time to worry about it - there's too much work to do."

Aston Villa are considering what to do next in their dispute over the valuation of highly-rated defender, Gareth Barry.

Villa were handed a suspended fine of £15,000 and had £200,000 of their television revenue diverted to Brighton and Hove Albion, following their refusal to pay the Third

Division club the latest installment of the compensation settlement for the 17-year-old.

The club were withholding the payment until they are told just how the independent tribunal came to set a compensation figure that could top £1m.

Villa's secretary-director Steve Stride said: "We have to decide whether to continue the fight or not. What we find baffling is that we wrote to the tribunal chairman back in October asking for an explanation as to how they arrived at such a high figure - and we are still awaiting a reply."

## England set for Hungary warm-up

BY NICK HARRIS

ENGLAND WILL play Hungary on 28 April in Budapest as part of their preparations for the crucial Euro 2000 qualifier against Bulgaria less than two months later. It was announced yesterday that Glenn Hoddle's side will play Sweden at Wembley at the start of June, followed by the Bulgarians, away, a few days later. Hoddle has organised the April friendly as he believes the Hungarian side mirror the style of the Bulgarians.

The news came on the same day that the national side and much of British football mortgaged its short-term image by signing a sponsorship agreement with a building society. The Nationwide announced a wide-ranging deal for the game worth an estimated total of £25m over four years. The deal means the company will succeed Green Flag as the England national side's main sponsor for the next four years, will continue as sponsor of the Football League for another two years, and become the new sponsor of the Football Conference. The company will also become an associate sponsor of the Scotland team for four seasons and continue its sponsorship of the Irish League Gold Cup for two years.

The new sponsor's chief executive, Brian Davis, said: "We need to consistently re-emphasise our brand to as many people as possible."

Hoddle said: "This is a deal which is great for all of football, not just the England team."

While yesterday's deal shows how attractive football has become to commercial investors in recent years, it also highlights the gaping divide between the different levels of the national sport.

Whereas yesterday's endorsement will see one company paying £25m to effectively sponsor all major football events in the country (including the national side) for four years, the Premier League's comparative deal with Carling (for just one division) is worth £36m alone.

Speaking after yesterday's deal was announced, Hoddle took the opportunity to say he believed the public are firmly behind him and his team, despite less than scintillating performances in the most recent Euro 2000 qualifiers. He added that the fact that next month's friendly at Wembley against France has sold out almost three weeks before it is due to be played proves that the public are behind him.

"I pushed for the game and the French came back straight away saying they wanted to play us at all levels, which shows the pull we still have and that Wembley is the place where people want to come and play," Hoddle said. "It couldn't be a better friendly fixture as they don't come any bigger than the world champions and the public have already responded with a full-house."

"I'm not sure that a dip in public support has been there anyway. There was a good crowd for the Czech Republic game [a friendly England won 2-0 in November] at late notice and a full-house here at Wembley is an excellent turn-out. It always is, they always support the team very well."

"The main concern for us is the next two qualifying games at Wembley. If we can chalk up two wins from those games then that will put a completely different complexion on the group."

"The Czech Republic game was good for us. If we hadn't played that game, it would have been a longer gap. If we can get the same result and performance against France, it will bode well for us."

"There are certain players who will gain from that experience, particularly if it's a younger player."

FA Cup countdown: Stockport's manager faces his old club tomorrow and risks ruining his son's day

## Megson tries to play down the romance

WHEN GARY Megson's nine-year-old son watched the FA Cup fourth-round draw he turned to his father and said "oh, you're out", which was not an extreme bout of pessimism or a ritual to bring good luck. He was stating his belief.

Simon Megson, as befitting the son and the grandson of former Sheffield Wednesday players, is blue and white through and through and the minor inconvenience that his father is manager of Stockport County, who play at Hillsborough tomorrow, is not going to test that affection.

"He'll not have divided loyalties at all," Megson said. "he'll be supporting Wednesday. But I won't have divided loyalties either, which is more pertinent."

It is fair to say, though, that Megson would be rooting for Wednesday if their Cup route was barred by anyone else. He lives in Sheffield, he played 250 league games for the club in two spells under Jack Charlton and Howard Wilkinson and his father, Don, was a distinguished left-back at Hillsborough in the 50s and 60s and played in the 1966 FA Cup final.

Even now Megson (middle) spends a lot of time at the club relieving himself of what he describes as "a small fortune" buying merchandise from Wednesday's souvenir shop. Needless to say, they are for Simon.

The links between Megson and Wednesday are strong, and certainly too robust to be broken by his attempt to move the agenda on. "I've been trying to play down anything to do with me but it's proving impossible. I won't kick a ball, make a tackle or get a goal and people should not forget that. It's the players who are important."

"There is romance for an ex-player meeting his old club but for a manager it's not there. To be honest I'd rather be playing a lower-level club on our pitch because we want to progress and make as much money as

BY GLENN MOORE

possible for Stockport. Drawing a Premiership club away is not designed to do that."

As a whole-hearted midfielder Megson reached the semi-finals three times (twice with Wednesday, once with Everton) but a place beneath the twin towers was denied him. That has made him appreciate the Cup more.

"It was galling to come so close and lose the lot and what is worse is my assistant is Mike Phelan, who won it with Manchester United, and he's not shy in reminding me. We tell the players that even if you play a long time you'll be lucky to get 20 goals at the FA Cup, so you have to give everything on the day."

Megson was one of those

*"To be honest I'd rather be playing a lower club on our pitch to make as much money as possible"*

players who rarely could be faulted on that count and his enthusiasm for work has followed him into management from Norwich to Blackpool and eventually cash-strapped Stockport. Many people would have been reluctant to succeed Dave Jones after his phenomenal season of 1996-97 when Stockport were promoted from the Second Division and reached the League Cup semi-finals, but he took it on.

It was a hard act to follow and the word had deteriorated to impossible when County did not win any of their first seven League games. "It wasn't easy," he agreed, "but the good thing was it was all new, nobody could say we did this or that last time in the First Division. Dave Jones did a marvellous job but nobody really expected Stockport to survive."

"The supporters weren't anti me and if they had been we'd

have struggled. The people here don't come in vast numbers but they're not thick, they know that 10 years ago this place was applying for relegation and it doesn't get put right overnight."

"We've survived because of our home form and the fans have to take credit because they make it an uncomfortable place to visit."

To say they survived is to underplay Megson's achievement, because Stockport revived to an extent they finished eighth, the highest rung they have ever reached on the league ladder. This time they are not comfortable but they are five points above the relegation places.

"It's more difficult because of the expectancy. Now it's seen as we're not too clever whereas if we'd been in this position last year we'd have been four or five places above where people thought we'd be."

"I'm convinced it's always more difficult to survive the second year than the first because you haven't got the newness and the enthusiasm. Bradford stayed up the first year, struggled the second and now they're flying."

Megson hopes tomorrow's tie will make Stockport airborne, although he is aware Wednesday have taken wing themselves and beat West Ham 4-0 at Upton Park last week. "If we give everything we've got and still don't win, then fair enough. There's no reason the opposition should work harder than you, be more organised or that their set pieces should be better than yours."

"It's just if the tie turns on players who can beat four players, turn on a tanner, and then chip the ball into the top corner they might have more people who can do that. But it doesn't always work out that way and they shouldn't want it more than my players."

The Megsons will all want to win this match badly. You wonder about the atmosphere in the family home on Saturday evening...



Gary Megson had a near-impossible job when he took over as the Stockport manager

Allsport

## Beck back to advise Barrow Branca questions Boro decision to retire him

BARROW IN a mess on and off the field, have turned to the controversial talents of John Beck in their quest to keep the place in the Football Conference they won last May.

Last season's UniBond League champions, already without a chairman, discarded their manager as well last Saturday evening when they sacked Owen Brown - despite that afternoon's 3-1 home win over Welling which lifted them four points and places clear of the relegation zone.

Beck, the former Cambridge United, Preston and Lincoln City manager, made his name as an advocate of the long-ball game and a strict disciplinarian. Sacked by Lincoln in March last year, he is now working full-time as a players' agent.

Beck's successor at Lincoln, Shane Westley, took the lumps to promotion from the Nationwide League Third Division last season but was himself sacked in November when the Sincil Bank chairman, John Reames, decided he would take charge of the team himself. Now Westley and Beck are

NON-LEAGUE  
NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

together again, with the former appointed manager of Barrow and the latter working as a consultant.

"Shane is the manager and I'm there in an advisory capacity as a consultant until the end of the season," Beck said. "Shane lives in Lincoln and he will commute until the end of the season and then we'll review the situation and consider relocating. Our aim is to survive in the Conference and I think our chances are 50-50 at the moment. They did tremendously well to get promoted last season and the worst thing that could happen is to come straight back down again."

Barrow have been in turmoil since early last month when their chairman and major backer, Stephen Vaughan, resigned following the start of an on-going fraud squad investigation into a share issue made by the club in October. The police probe is not the

only financial crisis facing the Cumbrian club: on Monday they face a winding-up order in court in Barrow over an alleged £41,000 debt to a construction company for ground improvements carried out at Holker Street last summer.

To add to their woes, a club director, Pat Brewer, who is also Barrow's secretary, was suspended last weekend pending an investigation into alleged irregularities in players' contracts. She has subsequently resigned from the board. Another director, Rick Lucas, a night-club manager, has also quit the board after declaring himself "deeply unhappy with the way the club is being run".

Brown, who was also a director, was sacked as manager, according to the acting chairman Phil Cowling, because "he was asked to reduce the wage bill considerably and he made no attempt to do that. The disciplinary record also had to improve because of a suspended £5,000 Football Association fine which is hanging over the club from last season. In fact, it has got worse."

An angry Brown, a former Tranmere Rovers and Carlisle United striker, told local newspaper reporters: "I feel I have been shafted big-time. I'm gutted. I feel I've managed the side this season with my hands tied behind my back."

Claiming that he is owed wages and bonuses, and that he has two-and-a-half years of a three-year contract to be settled, Brown added: "I'm going to sue them for what I am owed." However, Cowling has denied the existence of a three-year contract.

In the shadow of all this chaos, Westley and Beck must try to prepare the team for tomorrow's Conference fixture at Yeovil - if they get there. This week Cowling was pleading for sponsors to assist with the expenses involved in the long trip to Somerset. "We need people to get behind us at the moment," the acting chairman declared. He can say that again.

The FA's Sanctions and Regulations committee has unanimously rejected a proposal by the Conference to form a second division.

MIDDLESBROUGH WERE yesterday standing firm about the future of the Italian striker Marco Branca - even though the player has denied his career is over.

The club announced earlier this week that it had reluctantly terminated the 34-year-old's contract because of the long-standing knee injury which has limited his involvement to just one appearance as a substitute in the last nine months. But the move apparently came as a shock to the former Internazionale forward, who said: "Retirement? I don't know anything about this. Nobody has told me anything."

However, a Boro spokesman, Dave Allan, reiterated that Branca had been given six months' notice of his contract in October after a consultant surgeon advised that the knee would not stand up to the rigours of professional football. Meanwhile, the futility of the 'cash-for-votes' scandal at the Football Association was clear-

ly shown yesterday after Scotland's David Wili was unanimously given a two-year extension as the Home Nations' FIFA vice-president.

Keith Wiseman, the ousted chairman of the FA, is alleged to have agreed a £3.2m loan to the FA of Wales in an effort to obtain support for his bid to replace Wili on the executive of football's world governing body. Wiseman had apparently felt that the Scotsman was not doing enough to promote England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

Steve Wignall has resigned as the manager of Colchester United after four years in charge. He had guided the team to two Wembley appearances and promotion from the Third Division last season, but the Layer Road outfit are now struggling in the Second. Steve Whitton and Mickie Cook take caretaker charge.

Paul Alcock is to return to Premiership refereeing. The Redhill official, out of action with a back injury after being pushed

over by Paolo di Canio in September, will take charge of Nottingham Forest v Manchester United on 6 February.

Huddersfield Town yesterday received a major boost when the millionaire businessman Barry Rubery bought a 70 per cent controlling interest in the club. Rubery, who recently floated his satellite decoding equipment company Pace Micro Technology, has been in talks with the Terriers for six months over the buyout, thought to be in the region of £8m.

Liverpool are giving the Norwegian Under-18 international goalkeeper Espen Johnsen a 10-day trial, with a view to making the move from Start permanent.

Ronnie Moore and Steve Parkin have agreed to be wired up to heart monitors when Mansfield tackle Rotherham in tonight's Sky Sports televised fixture at Field Mill. The experiment is designed to give viewers a unique insight into stress levels in management.

TODAY'S  
NUMBER

927,024

The number of people who visited Barcelona's club museum last year - an increase of more than 10 per cent on 1997, making it Spain's fourth most popular museum







## SPORT

EMERSON STILL THE TENNIS ACE P22 • MEGSON FAMILY DIVIDED P26

Challenge  
Cup final  
moves to  
Scotland

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

THE GAME'S biggest event will move outside England for the first time when the Challenge Cup final is staged at Murrayfield in the Millennium season.

The home of Scottish rugby union has been earmarked as the venue for rugby league's greatest gathering of the clans in the year 2000, when Wembley will be being rebuilt.

The League had also considered Twickenham and the new national stadium in Cardiff as possible temporary homes, but Edinburgh will be widely welcomed as the most imaginative answer to the question of where to play the match next year.

"We had to ensure that during the time Wembley is out of commission we located a high quality stadium that matched the final's status as a sporting event and we have no doubt that Murrayfield fulfils that requirement," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe.

"During the many years that the game has been staged at Wembley, rugby league followers have become accustomed to celebrating the event by taking a weekend away in London. Our decision to move the game to the capital city of Scotland will afford our supporters a new opportunity to travel to one of the most beautiful cities in the world."

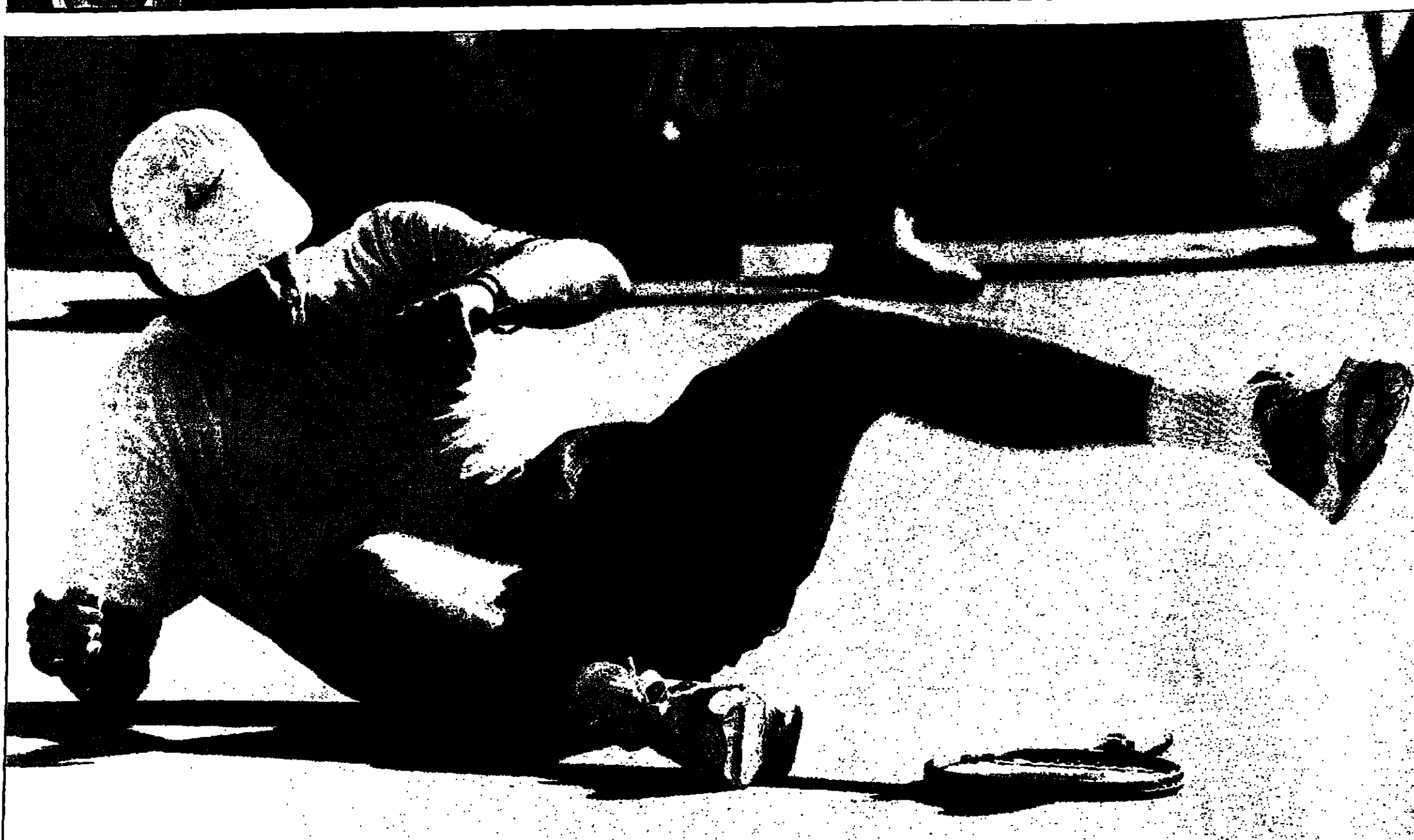
"We have consulted properly with our supporters as well as with our clubs to take their preferences into account when making this important choice."

The code will be making its debut at the stadium, although there have been recent international fixtures in Glasgow and an "on the road" fixture between Bradford Bulls and London Broncos at Hearts' Tynecastle ground last year.

There is also a growing amateur league scene in Scotland, which Tunncliffe said the decision to take the game's showpiece there was designed to foster.

The obvious drawback is that Murrayfield's capacity is only 67,500, enough to accommodate last season's relatively poorly supported final but only sufficient for three other attendances since the Second World War.

No decision has been made yet on the venue for 2001.



Britain's Greg Rusedski, the No 8 seed, is bowled over before being knocked out of the Australian Open by the American qualifier Paul Goldstein in Melbourne yesterday

Reuters

## Rusedski rues lost chance

GREG RUSEDISKI was left wondering whether he should have followed Pete Sampras's example and taken a month off after he was knocked out of the Australian Open here yesterday. The British No 2 and eighth seed lost to a player ranked 179 places below him, the American qualifier Paul Goldstein, who was playing only his 10th match on the men's tour since turning professional last autumn, triumphed 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2 in a game lasting a minute under three hours. Even in the set Rusedski won he needed eight set points - it went to 11-9 in the tie-break - and against a player he said was among the best

TENNIS  
BY DERRICK WHYTE  
in Melbourne

returners of serve he had ever faced, the 25-year-old made a ghastly total of 76 unforced errors.

It was Rusedski's third defeat in four matches so far this year and he lamented, "Maybe I should have done what Pete did - just stay at home. I think it was a good play for him to do that. He was so burned out he needed a rest and this is the toughest Grand Slam to get ready for."

"At the moment it hurts because this was a good opportunity the way the draw was

panning out but maybe, in retrospect, it will prove good for me. I'm very disappointed but I couldn't raise my game to the level I had to and he returned unbelievably well. He challenged me every single point and I was not up to the task.

"I got only 51 per cent of my first serves in and against a player with his quality of return you have to be up at about 60 per cent at least."

The 22-year-old Goldstein graduated from Stanford University in California last summer - he was a fellow student of Tiger Woods - and at the US Open in September took a set off Sampras. Rusedski watched that match but still was not quite prepared for yesterday's display.

"I dug out some balls he was not expecting and created some angles," Goldstein said. "He was a little bit frustrated, but he was real gracious in defeat and I appreciate that. He showed a lot of class."

"Greg is one of the top two or three servers in the game, but I went in with a fair bit of confidence."

Rusedski's frustration was apparent to everyone when he missed his second set-point chance at 5-4 in the second set. He angrily smashed the ball down the other end of the court, almost hitting a line judge, and was given a warning.

After eventually levelling, the third set went with serve

into another tie-breaker. Goldstein won that 7-5 with a double-handed winner which flashed across Rusedski from the backhand wing and, with his tail up, he hit three more to break in the opening game of the fourth set.

At that Rusedski slung his racket away and it was hardly worth retrieving. He was broken again for 4-1 and virtually gave up. He did save two match points but on a third he hit a smash way over the baseline.

John McEnroe came through the qualifying to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1977 - when he was aged 18 - but Goldstein may have to beat the 10th seed, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and 15th seed Todd Martin in addition to Andrei Pavel to progress that far.

There was disappointment for the home crowd when the 17-year-old prodigy Lleyton Hewitt, conqueror of the 13th-seeded Frenchman, Cedric Pioline, in the first round, went out in four sets to Tommy Haas. Hewitt won the first set and had the German 4-2 in the second before Haas came back and wore down the Australian.

"It was a big disappointment because there was an opportunity there to make the third round of a Grand Slam - and there's no seeds in my section either," Hewitt said.

"I play my best tennis when I'm pumped. Today I lost some

emotion at the end. I couldn't stay pumped for the whole match and I think it showed in the end."

In the women's singles, Anna Kournikova advanced in a match littered with unforced errors. To groans from the crowd, the 18-year-old Russian racked up an astonishing 31 double faults in overcoming Miho Saeki of Japan.

Time appears to be catching up on Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. The No 4 seed ran up another electrifying Austrian prospect Barbara Schett, whose power play unplugged the Spaniard's challenge.

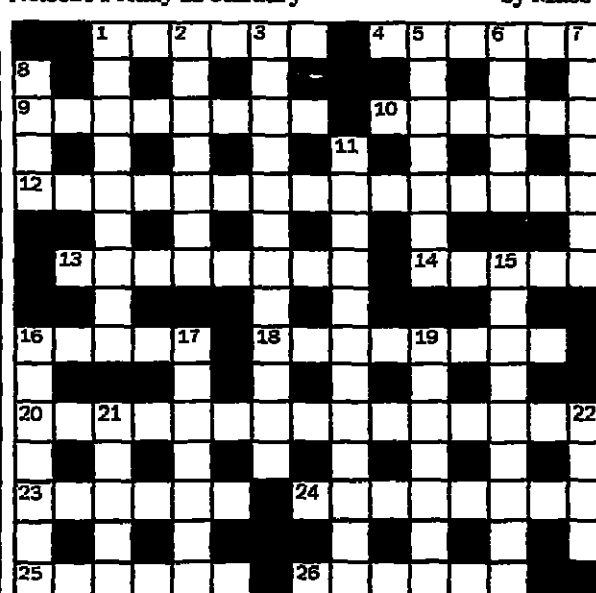
Results, Digest, page 27; Goldstein's graduation, page 22

## THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3826 Friday 22 January

by Mass

Thursday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Bones and skins without measure (6)
  - Constant interference (6)
  - Unfavourable rainy clouds from an Adriatic region (8)
  - Lawyer constrained by new iron decree (6)
  - Anything but ponderous (5, 2, 1, 7)
  - Join together for solace, moving off to church (8)
  - Half a month left to produce book (5)
  - State's introduced a new waterway (5)
  - Independent state, in name (8)
  - In which getting on may well be of primary concern? (8, 7)
- DOWN**
- Ample robe clothing royal adult (4-5)
  - Bridal material, baroque but not eastern (7)
  - Tax Return? (12)
  - Water creature quietly abandoned land (7)
  - Toreador's first hot-headed bull (5)
  - Study most of dwarf's dial? (7)
  - Face set, looking up (4)

- 11 Gas-fired? (12)**
- 12 Caught the Blues after six wins (9)**
- 13 In act, spurious - mere show (7)**
- 14 Runs from fifty snakes (7)**
- 15 Furnish new home for lady, put up over river (7)**
- 16 Paddy's explosive, bowled out (5)**
- 17 Drop eastern guru (4)**

## Ferguson no friend to Foe

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED'S manager, Alex Ferguson, has pulled out of the race for the Cameroon international Marc-Vivien Foé, leaving the way open for the midfielder to move to West Ham.

Ferguson revealed last night that he will not try to sign Foé from the French side. Lens, this season, even if it means losing out on him to the Hammers, who are hoping to do a quick deal.

Foé was at Old Trafford in August for a medical, but was not judged fully fit after a leg break that also ruled him out of the World Cup finals.

Ferguson has watched him since, but because Lens used Foé in the Champions' League - briefly, as a substitute in the last game - there is little point in United buying him immediately, as he is cup-tied.

The United manager denied last night that the club's ploy board had blocked move for Foé, and said: "We felt that due to his injury we should look at him over the season. We were

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

Cinderford last month, they rather overstepped the mark.

Phillip Ware, a poor, put-upon referee from Cornwall, had already dismissed two Spartan pugilists when he decided that the other 13 should join them in what is commonly termed the "early bath". The game was abandoned shortly

because they want a lump sum to build a new stand.

Blackburn's latest bid is £1.5m up front and the rest in appearances, but Crew need £2m now to renovate their main stand at Gresty Road. Kidd hopes a compromise figure can be reached to tie up Johnson, who can play in midfield or at left-back.

Crystal Palace's Italian international Attilio Lombardo flew to Rome last night in the hope of completing a move to Lazio. The First Division club confirmed that their midfielder and former caretaker manager was talking with the Serie A side.

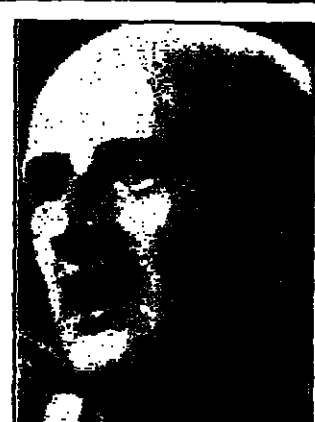
Lombardo, who has 18 Italian caps, played 24 times for the Eagles as they slipped out of the Premiership last season and has been a regular this term as they have tried to bounce back. The 33-year-old now looks likely to follow manager Terry Venables and striker Matt Jansen out of Selhurst Park.

Palace are reported to owe Lombardo bonus money and have agreed to release him immediately from his contract.

The Palace chairman and owner Mark Goldberg is facing mounting financial problems and is looking to cut his expenses further, after Venables stepped aside as team manager and 64.1m Jansen moved to Blackburn. Goldberg said: "Attilio has served Crystal Palace well. Obviously we are very sorry he is leaving but it is the same situation as with Matt Jansen. If we are not going to be in the Premiership next year then it is very difficult to keep him at the club."

A First Division side hoping to keep hold of one of their most talented players are Wolverhampton Wanderers, who yesterday said their Irish striker Robbie Keane was "priceless" and was not for sale.

Wolves' manager, Colin Lee, laughed off stories that the likes of Middlesbrough and



Lombardo: Lazio bound

Arsenal were preparing £5m bids for the 18-year-old, who is Molineux's leading scorer this season with 14 goals.

"Talk of £5m is a joke," said Lee. "That wouldn't even buy one of his arms and it's his legs which are supposed to be valuable. The stories are rubbish. Bryan Robson is supposed to have spoken to me about him yesterday but I haven't spoken to Robson for ages. In fact, no-one has ever phoned me about Robbie Keane, or made an offer."

More news, page 26

## Mass ban for indisciplined Spartans

THE RUGBY badlands of the West Country will be just a little less perilous for the next fortnight or so, now that those mean sons-of-guns from Spartans have been rounded up by the local sheriff. The Gloucester club side have long been renowned for their how shall we say, vigorous approach to Saturday afternoon exercise but when they collectively decided to let it rip in a South West Two league match with

before the interval - well, there were no Spartans left on the field - and on Wednesday night, the Gloucestershire disciplinary committee imposed a mass, two-week suspension on the miscreants.

Bobby Fowke, a hard-nut flanker who played top-flight rugby with Gloucester before returning to his local outfit, placed the blame squarely at the feet of Mr Ware. "The referee's report blamed us entirely, which

does seem a little odd considering there were two sides on the field," protested Fowke, who was one of those originally dismissed for fighting.

"He gave 15 penalties against us in the opening 10 minutes, but would not allow us to ask why they had been awarded. People were getting more and more frustrated and, in the end, it boiled over."

Fowke was dealt with at a previous disciplinary hearing

and although he was suspended for 35 days he is now available again - unlike his 14 club-mates.

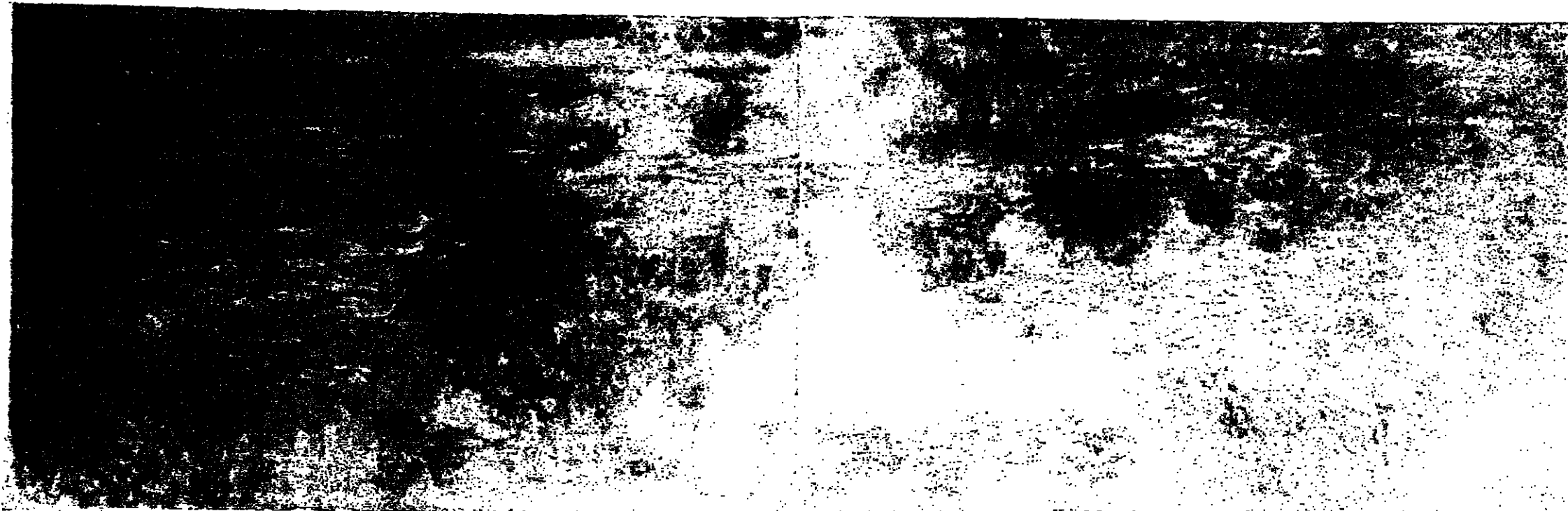
"It's a problem," he agreed. "We're going to have to field reserve teams in our next two league games and, although we're in mid-table at the moment, a couple of defeats could put us in relegation trouble."

As they say in all the best Gloucestershire clubhouse life can be a bitch.



# FRIDAY REVIEW

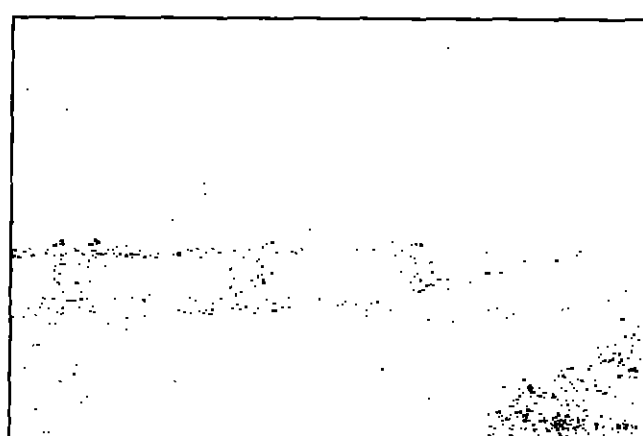
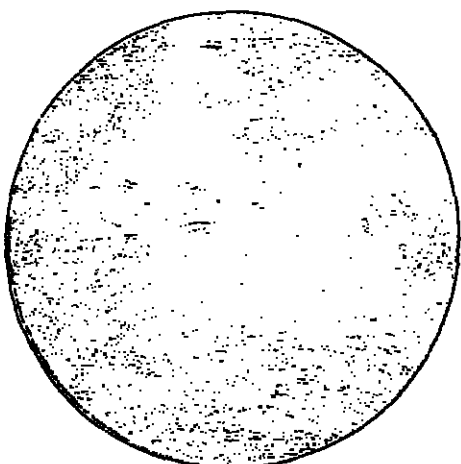
COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



## Monet, Monet, Monet

If the British public sees one exhibition this year, it will be Monet at the Royal Academy. As the crowds gather, the RA stands accused of shameless commercialism. Is this any way to treat the great Impressionist?

BY TOM LUBBOCK



Landscape painting, William Hazlitt said, is "the obvious resource of misanthropy". For the viewer as well as the artist, it's a chance to get away from them all. But if you love the scapes of Claude Monet, his views of the Giverny garden, say, his wide stretches of pond water, then you'd better love your fellow humans too. You're not likely to escape them that way. Quite the contrary.

Nine years ago the Royal Academy staged "Monet in the 90s", and at the height of that exhibition the main thing it offered the visitor was a chance to study crowd-movements in close quarters. Now we have "Monet in the 20th Century". I don't think the artist's popularity has waned much in the interval, though perhaps the RA has got more adept in crowd-management. At any rate, it's curious to consider that in the pictures themselves – if you can catch a glimpse of them – you'll not see a living soul.

Now I must not gloat. I have seen this show. I saw it on Monday. And for quite a lot of the time – give or take the odd guard, fellow critic, curator and an easily avoidable TV crew – I was more or less alone in it. Of course, I'm very glad of this. But it does mean that the show I saw, and the one you may see, are likely to be significantly different. The exhibition opens tomorrow. If a rapid response hadn't been requested, I'd have gone back again in public hours, to experience real viewing conditions – and not just to gauge the practical problems. Seeing and the self and solitude are pretty central matters to Monet's late art.

But the first wonder is how long he lasted. Monet, arch-Impressionist – it was his *Impression: Sunrise* of 1872 that first inspired the name – lived on through Symbolism, Fauvism, Cubism, Futurism, Dadaism even. He died in 1926, aged 86. A third of his painting life fell in our century. Whether, by the end, his work can still be called Impressionist, whether it should really be called visionary or indeed abstract, are not entirely stupid or anachronistic questions. Contemporary critics asked them, and anyone may well wonder. Incidentally, it's not as people used to think just a matter of Monet having bad eye trouble.

Fast forward the video: that's usually good advice for any blockbuster, and it is here. Don't waste your feet or eyes, your bargaining or head-dodging skills too much on the earlier rooms, where everyone always gets clogged. Proceed, fairly directly, past the first garden scenes, past the many views of Charing Cross Bridge and the several views of the Houses of Parliament. They've got their points, I know, and it's nice that Monet was a lover of our London fogs, but there's much more intensive viewing ahead. Keep moving, until you hit ponds.

I mean, specifically, not the pretty, delicate, circular and rather 19th-century-looking water-lilies pictures, but those in the next room, the more graphic and lurid ones, that somewhat suggest Edward Munch. It's true we've just skipped almost half the show,

but since almost the whole point of it is the last works, and since these lily pictures are first drafts for those infinite visions, they're a good start. They're in fact very clever (maybe not a word you'd associate with Monet). They perform an ingenious formal metamorphosis. A lot of it's in the cropping.

There's no bank in view. The pictures are all water, what's floating on it and what's reflected in it. And what's reflected is as boldly marked as what floats. Consequently they divide clearly into two flat, superimposed layers. It was 1907, no Western painting had done this before. The top layer is the water-lilies grouped in isolated flotillas on the pond's surface. The layer behind is the upside-down reflection of two shadowy treetops, with a brighter sky showing between and above (see below) them. OK.

Now consider those lilies: where have you seen that formation of shapes before in paintings? In cloud studies, most obviously, with groups of strato-cumulus floating in a sky. And the upside-down trees-against-sky reflection: what does that configuration of light and dark look like? Chiefly, pictures of widening river-mouths, or rising springs, or waterfalls dropping into a pool. So between the two layers, image and shape change places. The water surface becomes open sky. The reflected sky becomes flowing water (as it were, a stream within a pond). Very neat, if quite subliminal, punning; but it's the basis of the last works' deeper spatial uncertainties.

Then it's the Venice pictures, which Monet himself thought a bit chocolate-boxy. Then his wife died, and he painted little for a couple of years. Then it's 1914, and suddenly he's painting on a much larger scale, and the brushwork gets magnified and emboldened with it. Here you find the first Monet painting where it's natural to ask what's that meant to be? Monet probably wouldn't have considered *Water-Lilies, Reflections of Weeping Willows* (1916-19) a finished work. His taste was nearer than ours. But the point is, the space is starting to waver; the two layers – surface and reflection – merge in an overall milky-purple haze, mainly differentiated by rhythm and direction of brushstroke.

The most visionary images follow, ground-level views of the Rose Garden, and the Japanese Bridge with its overgrown canopy, where foliage burns in knotty, fireball coagulations of really thick paint, and the colours are frankly off the wall. A couple of these pictures may indeed register a disturbance in Monet's colour vision, due to cataract trouble. But he knew the colours of the world and he paints well enough for this still to be a doubtful explanation.

And now I'm hurrying to the *Grandes Décorations* in the last room, the giant lily-pond panoramas, two metres high, as much as six metres wide. Monet here develops this single motif into a space that's not abstract, but that resumes the whole of nature, with all nature's moods and elements in its repertoire. It can do boiling sunsets, lush meadow, dense mists, swelling ocean, pouring rain, the seabed. These amazing vistas disorder and dis-

solve between surface, depth, distance, atmosphere, flux, suspension, void. They put the viewer on the spot.

For if you imagine what viewing conditions the pictures demand, you see how odd they are. Size-wise, they look like public art, made to adorn a space with big walls, the sort of space you couldn't hope to have to yourself. But on the other hand, they're not for public viewing at all, not for sharing, or having an interesting discussion about in front of. The point of their size is the total immersion of the single viewer. There's this enormous panorama – for your eyes only. Think of mad King Ludwig having a full-dress performance of *Lohengrin* staged for him alone, an audience of one: that's about the size of the anomaly.

It might be simpler to say cinema. In the cinema, all audiences are audiences of ones. And when you enter the room, and see facing you the marvellous *Water-lily Pond* from New York, you may not think it, but your body knows at once what you're looking at: a wide screen. And as with a big movie, the impact is both overpowering and empowering. The vision is all yours to lose yourself in. But unlike a cinema, these paintings have only one true viewpoint – centre – in front of where the real depths sink in, with the encompassing vista balanced either side of you, and the pictures have to be hung at eye-level. You probably want to walk to and fro, approaching the canvas, backing off. But you don't want company, you want communion. There's no business so self-centred as self-loss.

Monet, of course, had bigger ideas about encompassing the viewer, and they're partly realised at the Orangerie in Paris. Personally, I've never thought this attempt at surround-vision really worked. Therefore I'm against the RA's imitating it, by putting its five panoramas all round the walls of a single, relatively small room. They need, ideally, one-to-one viewing. They need realistically as much space as possible, say a room each. (And I'm sorry to say the RA has actually taken three rooms out of circulation, for sponsors' parties.)

The experience, if you can get it, is the meaning. They're not about anything. I've made it sound rather spiritual, and that's all right if you see that with this art, the analogy can go either way – with the spiritual perhaps only a metaphor for the sensory. Or no distinction need be made. Monet once said he wanted a buoy for his coffin, to bob on the sea-surface eternally. But perhaps a better image for how the viewer is involved is the Buddhist idea of breaking the bottle, blending the water it contains with the ocean it's floating in.

Though I suppose, by the time you've squeezed your way through to the last room of "Monet in the 20th Century", you'll already know that feeling pretty well.

"Monet in the 20th Century", Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1; every day, to 18 April; admission £9, concessions £6, 0171-300 8000

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## True public service means giving time as well as money

THE DECLINE in charitable giving, both of time and money, is not just a technical phenomenon, another pernicious side effect of the National Lottery – although it is that too. It goes to the soft centre of the Prime Minister's Third Way. Philanthropic donations and voluntary work are central to any meaningful notion of "community", as Tony Blair acknowledged yesterday. In a thoughtful speech to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, he criticised the cynical view that the only thing that motivates people is the desire to acquire power, wealth and material possessions for themselves. "If everyone shared that first-past-the-post, me, my, mine philosophy, then there really would be no such thing as society." This is but the latest echo of one of Margaret Thatcher's most famous formulations. And yet the point she was trying to make in that famous *Woman's Own* interview was much closer to Mr Blair's thinking than either of them might admit, because the decline in the idea of community service goes rather deeper than the "me and mine" philosophy of the yuppie Eighties. It has also been undermined by the idea that many welfare functions are the responsibility of the state. Mrs Thatcher was railing against the idea that if people failed to bring up children properly or turned to crime, it was "all the fault of society". She was appealing, like Mr Blair, for a restoration of a sense of individual duty towards others.

Where this present Prime Minister has a potential advantage over his predecessor is that her philosophy, with its simplistic reliance on the notion that people pursue only their economic self-interest, offered no explanation as to why they should give money away or work for free – "no such thing as altruism", as she might have said.

Mr Blair, on the other hand, has always espoused a political vision which recognises that people fulfil themselves in their relations with others, and that individual success is unsatisfying unless it is accompanied by a sense of belonging to a successful community.

However, the trend away from charitable giving and voluntary work is not going to be reversed unless the Government changes the incentives that influence human behaviour, and tries to change our national culture. That means American-style tax breaks for charitable giving – to accompany the overhaul of the legal definition of charitable objects that is currently under way. And it means changes in the tax system, beyond the current give-as-you-earn and bequest schemes, to encourage people to devote more time to voluntary work and public service. Employers should have more incentives to employ more people, more part-time and flexible workers, rather than simply to work existing staff for longer hours.

These incentives should both encourage and reinforce



## Flying in the face of the free market

THERE ARE, sadly, many candidates for the title of "most fixed market in Britain". Agriculture springs to mind, as does the new car trade. But, in terms of its stubbornness and blatancy, air travel has always been a prime contender for the award. Fresh revelations about the behaviour of our leading airline may just have clinched it. The wonder is that the relevant competition authorities seem so unable – or unwilling – to do much about it.

The "back-door" fare increases now being planned show that the airlines are still unashamed about fixing artificially high fares. British Airways has always been an aggressive player. But this move is startling in its audacity, even for this company.

To take one small example, if you want to fly from

Heathrow to Jersey, say, you have no choice but to use BA, and from April you will have to pay an extra £7.70 for the trip, supposedly to cover extra tax. But the problems do not end there. Heathrow airport is the most sought after in the world. Every airline on the planet is desperate for "slots" to land here. But the Bermuda Agreements that have governed Anglo-American air travel since the Forties limit the airlines that can fly transatlantic from Heathrow to just two on each side: BA and Virgin from the UK, American and United from the US. Cities such as Las Vegas are crying out for direct links from London, and many airlines are keen to serve it, but the bilateral agreement does not allow new entrants. Any new slots that do become available are usually carved up. This stymies competition and innovation.

By most standards, we enjoy a relatively deregulated market. But the big players have too much power. Passengers get a raw deal. If the Government and the European Commission fail to act, we'll know who really rules the skies.

## As Mr Ashdown quits, will his party disappear into oblivion?

THE BIGGEST tribute to Paddy Ashdown is that such important questions have been raised by his impending departure. They are questions which go to the heart of government. What happens to relations between his party and Labour? How will the promised referendum on electoral reform be affected? What future will there be for the Lib/Lab Cabinet committee?

Compare these questions with those at the time when Ashdown's most recent predecessors announced their resignations. Speculation after the departure of Jeremy Thorpe in the 1970s centred on his own personal future, a male model and a deceased dog. The party had become so irrelevant, the main area of contention in its subsequent leadership contest was over whether one of the candidates, John Pardo, had been the beneficiary of a hair transplant.

In 1988, when David Steel walked away from the debris of the SDP/Lib Alliance, the main question being asked was whether the Liberals could survive at all. What is more, Steel manoeuvred in the 1980s, when the political climate was far more conducive to a third party with Labour and the Tories vacating the centre ground. Ashdown faced the possibility of being swallowed alive by New Labour's dash to the "radical centre".

Instead, 11 years after his leadership began, Ashdown marches off stage to the drumbeat of those flatteringly big questions being asked of himself and his party. Yet the questions suggest also that he is leaving behind much unfinished business. For however big they are in relation to the

future pattern of British politics, they remain unresolved. Even more tantalising, Ashdown's departure risks a resolution which he will find hard to stomach.

Without his guiding hand, the chances of a return to traditional tribal politics are increased. During the next six months, he will work hard to avoid such an outcome, but the momentum is moving away already from the Ashdown vision of greater co-operation between his party and New Labour. For the vision is dependent on electoral reform.

More immediately, Ashdown's interim form of constructive opposition needs the promise of a referendum in the near future to keep his wary colleagues on board. As I wrote on Monday, even Lord Jenkins puts the chances of a plebiscite within five years as under 50/50. It is far from clear that a poll would be winnable even then. Without electoral reform, co-operative politics has limited short-term value. For in reality, parliamentary arithmetic dictates the attitude of parties towards each other. When a governing party needs support in the Commons, tribal instincts evaporate surprisingly quickly. Even John Prescott would hold the hand of his opposite number in the Lib Dems if the survival of the Government was at stake. Similarly, John Major was forever pouring whisky down the throats of Lib Dem MPs as he sought support over the Maastricht legislation.

But Major's parliamentary nightmare was a rare one. Nearly always the first-past-the-post system will deliver one party a thumping majority.



**STEVE RICHARDS**  
*His vision is dependent on electoral reform, but the momentum towards such reform has stopped*

Indeed, much time is wasted during election campaigns speculating on what might happen in a hung parliament, when there has been only one since the Second World War in February 1974. Yet such an unlikely scenario was Ashdown's only hope of a coalition in 1997, and would be if he had clung on until the next election.

In my view, electoral reform is less likely now than it has been for many years. Last November, the Jenkins Report had the potential to make great historical waves. It did not. Instead, the elegant words were the equivalent of pebbles causing a few ripples, before being brushed aside by a much bigger gust from a different direction. In Labour's ranks, the first-past-the-posters are smiling, looking forward to further vindication when PR in the Euro elections this summer

loses them more seats than would have been the case otherwise. Even senior Labour supporters of electoral reform are not especially keen on Jenkins' proposals. "I would support the Alternative vote, but not this messy compromise", is a common reaction. The momentum towards electoral reform has gone into reverse.

This, combined with the related factor of Blair's continuing equivocation on the issue, will encourage the tribal instincts of the Lib Dems. Such instincts are far greater than those in the souls of many Labour traditionalists, as anyone who attends their party conferences will testify.

I remember reporting their 1992 conference in Harrogate, following the Tories' fourth election win in a row. Before the conference, Ashdown had raised, very tentatively, the prospect of co-operating with other parties in the light of the Conservatives' apparent invincibility. Activist after activist stood up to declare their horror at such a prospect, insisting that the party's national objective should be to form the next government. It was the same sort of horror expressed by some of them when the joint Cabinet committee was formed.

Too many Liberal Democrats manage to combine self-righteousness and naivete in equal measure. It is a miracle Ashdown has taken them as far as he has.

It is quite possible that they will pick a leader now who will take them to the promised land of indignant impotence. Such a strategy would be a big mistake. A senior cabinet minister, one of those rare figures in Blair's

Government who is supportive of closer co-operation, told me that "the gloves would be off and the Liberals annihilated" if a new leader reverted to the old tribalism.

At the moment, with New Labour still dominant in the polls, it is the Lib Dems who risk being marginalised. New Labour alone would become Blair's vehicle for the realignment of British politics. But before most of the cabinet rubs its hands in glee at such a prospect, ministers should contemplate their rather emptier lives in the 1990s. It is not just the Liberal Democrats who have much to lose by ditching the Blair/Ashdown strategy. During the long years of opposition, the third party was effectively part of an anti-Labour coalition, rather than an anti-Thorpe one. Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock were attacked on two fronts, by the Conservatives and the Alliance. They never stood a chance.

There will come a time when this Government is unpopular, and when the Conservatives come to their senses. Labour could face such an assault again, if the centre-left finds itself occupied once more by two parties fighting each other.

There are pointers to suggest that the Blair/Ashdown strategy is still on course. But I suspect the moment has passed. Already, too many ministers have forgotten what it was like to lose elections, while on the national stage too many Liberal Democrats prefer the purity of opposition to the whiff of power.

Steve Richards is political editor of the *New Statesman*

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You have to pray daily, light a candle – get down on your knees – as far as the prisons are concerned."  
Jack Straw,  
Home Secretary

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."  
William Blake,  
British poet

## THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL

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WHAT REALLY happened last week at Racak, where 45 people were found dead? Albanian witnesses claim it was a cold-blooded massacre of unarmed civilians. The Serbs affirm that the victims were KLA militants. Only an international inquiry, above all suspicion, will resolve this puzzle. The problem, though, is that the Belgrade authorities have not even once showed themselves as being co-operative in this affair. But why not? Whatever

the conclusions drawn by those leading investigations into this matter, the Racak massacre reveals that the hope of having reached a satisfactory arrangement regarding the Kosovo crisis was an illusory one. *Le Monde*

THE INTERNATIONALISATION of the Kosovo problem was a chance for the Serbs. The observers deployed should have enabled the suspension of combat and a climate essential to

the construction of a solution to the Kosovo problem. That chance has been compromised. Will we ever save the Serbian nation from its own demons? *Le Figaro*

THERE IS no doubt that a massacre took place at Racak and that the massacre was the work of the Serbian police. But what was its precise nature? Was it an act of war? The act

of soldiers who lost control? Or perhaps simply the cold-blooded execution of civilians? Should we want to sway opinion in the direction of the last suggestion, was the Kosovo Liberation Army on the scene? Since the massacre the media has attempted in all honesty to reply to these questions. Was the massacre premeditated, or was it precipitated on the ground? The bizarre nature of its chronology and contradictory witness statements

have fanned the flames of suspicion. But in this filthy war over Kosovo, either hypothesis would make sense. The Serbian forces have never distinguished themselves with a respect for the Geneva convention and have always been ready to organise a civilian massacre to terrorise the Albanians. But the KLA, organisation of steel, is also well able to "arrange" truth to sway international opinion. *Liberation*







# Modern life on a plate



**DEBORAH ORR**

*Politicians are all eating wood-smoked duck in public and ready-made lasagne in private*

DO YOU ever worry, as you sit of an evening with your microwave meal resting on your copy of *The Sugar Club Cookbook* watching Rick Stein's *Seafood Odyssey*, that you're letting yourself down?

Do you ever feel that while you've bought radicchio perhaps half-a-dozen times since you first heard of it in the late Eighties, it could be a personal failing that each time you've managed to get some home from the supermarket, it has eventually (actually shockingly quickly) turned to slime in the "crisper" compartment of your fridge?

Does it ever bother you that although you'd like the children to eat more healthily, à la Nigella Lawson (bless her), that in the end it feels better to serve them frozen pizza, which they eat, instead of fresh vegetable crostini, which they don't?

If you've answered yes to these three questions, then welcome. You are a fully paid up member of the Nineties aspirational-lifestyle-club, perching right on the knife-edge of our confusions about public and private lives, and you are a person who has many, many friends.

Imagine you'd left Britain 20 years ago. You said goodbye to a country in which roast beef with Yorkshire pudding was the internationally scorned but much-loved family meal on a Sunday, where the occasional meal out meant prawn cocktail Marie Rose, steak and chips, then Black Forest gateau, and where a greengrocer's offering of apples, oranges, pears, grapes and bananas all at the same time was considered to be the *dernier cri*.

Now imagine you've just come back here. Everything is different, as a trip to Sainsbury's to pick up some strawberries, a plain or two and a packet of Chinese gooseberries will immediately confirm. Judging by the recipe books gleaning on the kitchen shelves of all your chums, you could be in for seared fresh tuna for Sunday dinner, although even that doesn't quite hit the mark because your hosts are the lucky winners of yet another eat-for-80-at-a-tenner offer at the Conran restaurant of your choice.

Open any Saturday or Sunday newspaper, and you will find large tranches of full-colour newspaper dedicated to bringing you stories of



The aspirational face of British eating - chefs Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray at work at the River Café in Hammersmith, west London

David Rose

the latest antics of the latest celebrity chefs, printing their recipes, previewing their television programmes, reviewing their restaurants and detailing their cooking implements and kitchen layouts. If that's not enough for you, then take your pick of hirsute, glossy periodicals dedicated to food and drink.

Now, you could be forgiven for imagining that this may just mean something, the something being that Britons are cooking more, eating better, and leading healthier lives. That would be an understandable though silly assumption. That would suggest that consumers consumed, when actually consumers simply purchase.

It's been 20 years since the French philosopher Guy de Bord predicted the "society of the spectacle", in which people would become observers of a world summoned up by the media, but it's certainly not quite hit the mark because your hosts are the lucky winners of yet another eat-for-80-at-a-tenner offer at the Conran restaurant of your choice.

This week's Mintel British Lifestyles 1999 Survey, informed us

yet again that the biggest growth in food spending was in the convenience foods sector - which now accounts for 23 per cent of all the food we eat - while our overall spending on food to eat in the home has declined. Some of this, you may be forgiven for assuming, is because we're all eating out a great deal more. But actually, only around a fifth of us hit a restaurant twice a week or more, while another fifth eat out "only occasionally".

As for cooking, fewer and fewer people are doing it, with large swathes of the population considering reheating a packet of frozen chicken Kiev actually to be cooking. As for the traditional Sunday dinner, it's now a tradition that fewer and fewer of us observe.

While some of the burgeoning army of food celebrities, led by Delia Smith with her latest offering, *How To Cook*, are attempting to address this very basic lack of knowledge and skill, some arresting sales of specialist pans doesn't necessarily mean that we're getting back in the kitchen. These sales, like the sales of the books themselves, are indications only of our heartless - but somehow thwarted - desire to do so.

And far from living healthier

lifestyles, we are becoming less healthy at a quite alarming rate. Obesity and digestive difficulties plague us, while our children have become so sedentary and so addicted to junk food that even though we actually eat less than we used to, we weigh more.

Across the board our fat to muscle ratio is moving ever towards lardiness, bringing with it the astonishing fact that our children will grow up with the lowest life expectancies in living memory. And if the fat doesn't get them then the food itself might, for food poisoning of every kind is on the increase. Even more depressing, in Britain today more than four million children are estimated to be suffering from malnutrition.

But this isn't simply a rerun of the old situation in which a cultural elite's living habits gain huge, unchallenged currency. Certainly there are some privileged "foodies" around who really live in the River Café society (they, like General Pinochet and Tony Blair, but there are plenty of ordinary people who ardently aspire to it).

All of the major soap operas now have their local restaurant as well as their local pub. Even in the land that time forgot, *Coronation*

Street, Natalie is introducing ciabatta and deep-fried potato-skins to the Rover's Return, in an as-yet unheard-of challenge to the ancient hegemony of Betty's Turpin's hotpot. Across the road Roy's Rolls is in the midst of a makeover which will make it Weatherfield's answer to the River Café itself.

The truth is that British eating habits have developed a sophisticated and aspirational public face, while in private we cling to comfort and convenience. An unsympathetic critic might encapsulate this phenomenon within the dread phrase "style over substance", but this is too glib and rather underplays the significance of our schizophrenic attitudes to our public and private lives, and not only as far as food is concerned.

Our obsession with this new wave of fancy foodism began in the Eighties along with yuppies and property-owning democracies. It was initially distrusted and satirised, particularly by the left, as being a symptom of that greedy decade. But this new decade, the Nineties, far from developing its own discrete character, has been marked by the process of normalisation whereby the excesses of one decade have become the facts of life

in the next. And if the personal is political, then food and power are inextricably entwined.

So it's perfectly fitting that the seal was set on the New Labour leadership with a dinner at the fashionable Islington restaurant Granita, while its greatest crisis was precipitated by a man who wished to project a certain lifestyle but didn't want anyone to know he couldn't pay for it.

If only this was merely a matter of style over substance. Instead it's a question of public affluence masking private poverty. Which is why politicians are so keen to protect their privacy while seeing no contradiction in wishing to project their image and why they no longer seem able to judge what behaviour is appropriate for public life. They're all eating wood-smoked duck in public and ready-made lasagne (the most popular chilled meal in Britain) in private.

We really are what we eat. And what we are is sophisticated, aspirational, poised and capable in public; overstretched, confused, tired and unable to meet our commitments at home. Let's hope that Delia can tell us *How To Cook* as quickly as she can, and then that Nigella can tell us *How To Eat*.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

**NATHANIEL KEKANA**

*A member of the South African Parliament responds to Fergal Keane's recent article on township life*

CYNTHIA MATHEBE'S story is testimony to the courage and patience of millions of South Africans, as well as to the vicious historical legacy that the first democratically elected government is charged with transforming. But life has changed for millions of South Africans. Cynthia is now a citizen of her country. Her children receive free medical care and a nourishing meal at school. In the foreseeable future she will receive a serviced site and a subsidy to build a brick dwelling. For citizens of developed countries it is hard to imagine the hardship that most South Africans experience daily. That gap, referred to so lightly in Fergal Keane's article, represents a major change in the lives of millions of our people. Without running water, South African women spent up to six hours a day collecting water. Government recently announced the country's three-millionth recipient of water services.

Over 400,000 people per year are receiving electricity for the first time. A thousand houses are built daily. By the end of this year government will have provided housing for 850,000 households.

But transformation is not just about houses and taps. Cynthia's domestic worker daughter is, for the first time, protected by law against exploitation. She cannot be fired arbitrarily. She cannot be forced to work on Sundays without extra compensation, and she enjoys basic workers' rights. Cynthia cannot be evicted from the land she occupies without due process and, for the first time, enjoys basic human rights that in developed countries are taken for granted.

Would that government could wave a wand and eradicate poverty and its evils. But our government is committed to fiscal discipline, a discipline that has paid dividends by ensuring that our economy has weathered the global melt-down of markets better than any other developing economy. The ANC-led government is committed to the needs of the many, not the few.

# Portrait of the artist as a critic

## FRIDAY BOOKS

**THE CULTURAL TURN: SELECTED WRITINGS ON THE POSTMODERN, 1983-1998**

BY FREDRIC JAMESON, VERSO, £11

**THE ORIGINS OF POSTMODERNITY**

BY PERRY ANDERSON, VERSO, £11

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, when the American critic and theorist Fredric Jameson delivered a benchmark lecture on postmodernism, the term was "not widely accepted or even understood". Ten years ago, it was intimidatingly modish. Now, it seems almost quaint. Still, the appearance of books by players of the stature of Jameson and Perry Anderson quickly rouses one from the slumber induced by years of second-rate discourse-speak.

"Commentary," according to Jameson, "makes up the special field of post-modern linguistic practice," even in the absence of "the sacred text" - the essential work that usually generates commentary. Into this vacuum Jameson's book *Postmodernism: or the cultural logic of late capitalism*, in which he made this de-

claration. Effectively, this pioneering work was a commentary on its own existence, or at least on how the author's thought had evolved. The essays Jameson has collected in *The Cultural Turn* are further addenda to his magnum opus.

Perry Anderson's little book *The Origins of Postmodernism* was initially intended as an introduction to *The Cultural Turn*, but then it outgrew its brief. Within Anderson's own formidable work as a historian and cultural theorist, it takes its place as the final volume in a trilogy, after *Considerations on Western Marxism* and *In the Tracks of Historical Materialism*. In them, exactly as prescribed by Jameson, the task of commentary is raised to the level of primary intellectual exploration.

Since Jameson is the central figure in Anderson's book, it is also the latest instance of the sustained grappling with writers or thinkers that feature in his magisterial collection of essays, *A Zone of Engagement*. In the past, "an element of resistance" was always an ingredient in Anderson's impulse to write about someone. Here, however, he lacks "the safety of sufficient distance".

Before celebrating Jameson's achievement, Anderson takes us through the genealogy of the idea of the postmodern. He displays the same breadth and depth of learning as he did in working through the background to Fukuyama's influential con-

cept of the "end of history". Anderson locates the first usage of "postmodern" in the Hispanic world of the 1930s. Arnold Toynbee and Charles Olson also used the term in the 1950s, but it is not until Jean-François Lyotard's book *The Postmodern Condition* (1979) that we get a sense of "of post-modernity as a general change of human circumstance".

The foreword to the English edition was written by Jameson himself. He went on to make the crucial step of anchoring postmodernism "in objective alterations of the economic order of capital itself". Jameson linked the concept to "the saturation of every pore

of the world in the serum of capital". This fundamental intervention was followed by "a majestic expansion of the postmodern across virtually the whole spectrum of the arts". It is this totalising ambition, I guess, that has led Anderson to write about someone without his usual feeling of "significant dissent".

Does this absence mean that the book lacks some of his customary bite? Anderson's lack of resistance certainly exacerbates the reader's. My local objections generate more general ones. "Is there any contemporary critic with an even distantly comparable range?" he asks, of Jameson. Of course

there is: John Berger. How come Anderson has never got to grips with him?

Having quoted Jameson's observation that, of the thinkers of Western Marxism, Theodor Adorno "was the supreme stylist", Anderson wonders "whether the description does not better... apply to [Jameson] himself." It might even better apply to Anderson himself. Anderson reckons that Jameson is "a great writer", but it seems to me that Anderson himself is the great writer. Jameson, on the other hand, is trapped in the prison-house of his peculiar idea of virtuosity.

Anderson admires "the spacious rhythms of a complex, yet supple syntax" but the flamboyant baroque of Jameson's prose is an irritating impediment to what is being said. If Jameson's influence is as extensive as Anderson suggests, then he must shoulder much of the blame for the torrent of discursive gabble that has fatally contaminated the field. Reading Jameson, I am reminded of those T-shirts on which "Dazed and Confused" is printed, deliberately indistinctly, so that the more sharply you focus, the more blurred the words become.

Is this just me being stupid? I think not, since Perry Anderson's prose, for me, has always had exactly the "compelling splendour" he finds in Jameson. If the obligation to look up words like "usurper" or "exordium" is an inherent part of reading Anderson, that is because he is working at the cutting-edge of language. His exacting vocabulary is part and parcel of an impulse to present complex ideas without simplification but with the elegance of absolute clarity. In doing so, he reminds us of the inadequacy of confining the search for great stylists to fiction.

GEOFF DYER



Postmodern paradigm: Coca-Cola in the mosque

Reuters

The reviewer's latest novel is *Paris Trance* (Abacus)

## FRIDAY POEM

**SONG FOR A DARK GIRL**  
BY LANGSTON HUGHES

Way Down South in Dixie  
(Break the heart of me)  
They hung my black young lover  
To a cross roads tree.

Way Down South in Dixie  
(Bruised body high in air)  
I asked the white Lord Jesus  
What was the use of prayer.

Way Down South in Dixie  
(Break the heart of me)  
Love is a naked shadow  
On a gnarled and naked tree.

This poem comes from the *Selected Poems* of Langston Hughes, reissued next week by Serpent's Tail (£7.99)

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## Ahmed Pochee

AHMED POCHÉE was a maverick who injected a fresh spirit of irreverence and fun into the staid world of the wine trade. The fact that he never took himself, or anyone else, too seriously, was the key both to his success and his low profile. He was an anti-hero for whom the trappings of success meant little compared to the job he loved doing.

The founder of Oddbins in the 1960s and the Great Wapping Wine Company in the 1970s, Pochee was the arch wheeler-dealer. Right until his untimely death from myxo-fibrosis, he was in his element sniffing out parcels of bankrupt stock in railway arches of the East End and selling them from the back of his battered Mercedes van to the posh wine merchants of Fulham and St James's.

Born in 1933, and brought up in north London, to an Indian father and English mother, Pochee was an unlikely patrol leader in the East Finchley Boy Scouts, before he contracted meningitis. He studied hotel management and started an economics degree (characteristically failing to finish it) at the Regent Street polytechnic before following in the culinary footsteps of his father, who had opened Edinburgh's first Indian restaurant.

As a sous-chef at Simpson's in the Strand and then a porter at Allott's, the wine merchants, the world of hotels and restaurants led him to London's subterranean cellars. With his knack of charming cellar and restaurant managers, he was soon tapping into the rich seam of surplus stocks of often undervalued wine. Starting to trade in odd parcels and bins of wine, he set up his own business, Oddbins, when he was 21, with a help of a loan from his best friend, John Benetti.

At this time, high-street off-licences were largely in the hands of the big brewers looking for an outlet for their brands. Pochee's Oddbins, with its breezy anarchic style, its knowledgeable staff and the inevitable music of Miles Davis and Nina Simone, started the process of blowing the cobwebs away from the old-fashioned off-licence. When Thresher launched Wine Rack two decades later as a "revolutionary" new high-street concept, Pochee commented wryly: "That's strange; we did that 20 years ago and we didn't call it revolutionary then."

When the London docks were being closed in the late 1960s, Pochee struck a deal with Customs and Excise whereby, on payment of the excise duty, he was able to lay his hands on large quantities of unclaimed parcels of wine. Despite the fact that 1968 was a dreadful vintage, he cocked a snook at the traditional wine trade by selling classified clarets with grand names such as Beycheville Cos d'Estournel and Grand Puy Lacoste for 19s 11d (99p). This was the sort of thing which made Oddbins' reputation for extraordinary bargains and appealed to newcomers to wine who were put off by the wine trade's crusty image.

Wheeler-dealing was Pochee's métier, based on a profound understanding of the value of wine and the difference between what he could pay for it and what he could get for it. With the Great Wapping Wine Company, started in 1972, he was an early pioneer of the pile-it-high, sell-it-cheap philosophy which led to the likes of the Majestic Wine Warehouse chain. Along with wine, he introduced special imports of virgin olive oils, cheeses and fish considered exotic at the time.

*Pochee's Oddbins started the process of blowing the cobwebs away from the old-fashioned off-licence*

But his capacity for successful retailing was limited. According to his former partner Tony Mason, now with Majestic, "his innovative spirit was not matched by entrepreneurial ability or respect for the rules".

Gleefully antisocial, Pochee went out of his way to ruffle the feathers of the pompous. At the end of one particularly boring black tie dinner, he announced he was going to remove the table cloth, leaving everything on the table intact. In fact, he brought glasses, bottles, cutlery and crockery crashing to the floor.



While his eccentric personality inspired affection in many, his mischievous spirit did not endear him to the wine trade establishment. In fact it is widely believed that, when the big boys put Oddbins into receivership in 1973, it was done out of spite. Oddbins was able to pay all its creditors in full, with plenty left over for the shareholders.

Pochee loved horse-riding and travelling. In the 1970s, Pochee's aeroplane crashed into dense jungle in Kenya. Despite being badly injured, he spent a week following the river downstream with his son and nephew to safety. He

ran for Highgate Harriers, competing in several marathons, and achieving a personal best of two hours 40 minutes as a veteran.

In the last two years of his life, when he knew he was terminally ill, he carried on trading in the beloved grimy van from which, on his instructions, the final delivery, his coffin, was lifted.

ANTHONY ROSE

Ahmed Pochee, wine merchant: born London 23 September 1933; twice married (three sons, one daughter); died London 18 December 1998.

## Buddy Feyne

BUDDY FEYNE was not one of Tin Pan Alley's legendary songwriters, but, in a long and varied career, he did put words to two popular instrumental pieces, "Tuxedo Junction" and "The Jersey Bounce".

Born Bernard Feinstein in 1912, he grew up in the tough Spanish Harlem section of New York City, and longed, from an early age, to be part of the music business. While singing with various obscure bands in and around New York, he began writing special material for himself and other vocalists. He became Feyne when he met Milton Berle in the 1930s. "Feinstein sounds too Jewish," advised the comedian, who had himself begun life as Berlinger.

In 1939 "Tuxedo Junction" was introduced by Erskine Hawkins and his band at the Savoy Ballroom, in New York, and was an immediate hit. The song was named after a railroad stop in Alabama, its instrumental was co-composed by Hawkins and his saxophonists Bill Johnson and Julian Dash. Helped immeasurably by Wilburn "Dud" Bascomb's muted but swinging

trumpet solo (often mistakenly credited to Hawkins), the band's recording for the Bluebird label was its biggest ever success, and the piece soon replaced Hawkins' "Swing-Out" as his signature tune.

White bands of the day often looked to black bands for material and Glenn Miller soon recorded his own version of "Tuxedo Junction" for the same label, scoring an even greater hit. When it was decided to add words to the music, the 28-year-old Feyne was sent by his publisher to meet Hawkins as a possible lyricist. After hearing "Tuxedo" only once, he impressed the bandleader by dashing off the complete lyric on the spot. The song was successfully recorded by the Andrews Sisters and by Jan Savitt and other orchestras.

Feyne and Bill Johnson's "Dolomite" record for Bluebird by the Hawkins band caught the attention of Jimmy Dorsey, who recorded it with his orchestra for Decca (1940).

Feyne became a member of the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1940 and con-

tinued his association with Erskine Hawkins that same year by collaborating with Robert B. Wright on the words of "After Hours", a haunting blues piece originally composed as an instrumental for the Hawkins band by its chief arranger and pianist Avery Parrish.

In the late 1930s Feyne was busy in radio, not only as a solo singer, but as a writer-producer of the series *Rhythm School of the Air*. During the Second World War he served overseas with the 77th Infantry Division, presenting Army shows and winning the Bronze Star. After the war, he wrote and produced for television, provided both words and music for Time for Fun, an album of children's songs, and launched a music publishing firm.

In 1946 he and Robert B. Wright put words to "The Jersey Bounce", an instrumental co-composed five years earlier by Wright, Bobby Plater, Tiny Bradshaw and Edward Johnson, and originally popularised by the Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman bands. The piece had a second success as a song. In 1954 Feyne collaborated with Mau-

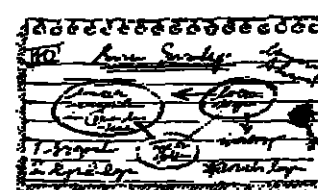
rice Shapiro on "Why". Their song (not to be confused with the 1959 ballad of that title, recorded by such artists as Frankie Avalon and Anthony Newley) gave Top Forty records to both Nat "King" Cole and Karen Chandler.

Feyne wrote more than 400 songs, his other collaborators including Milton Berle, Harry Revel, Bill Harrington, Raymond Scott, Al Sherman and Peter Tinturin.

He is survived by a son and a daughter from his second marriage, and by his third wife, the former Leatrice Ruzov, who was running his publishing company when, at the age of 82, he proposed to her. "Buddy was a sweet man, but he always had a new song on his mind," she recalls. "So I arranged for us to get married on my birthday. I figured it would give him one less big day to remember."

DICK VOSEBURGH

Bernard Feinstein (Buddy Feyne), lyricist, composer, publisher, singer: born New York 9 June 1912; three times married (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 10 December 1998.



### PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

MARTIN COHEN

## Philosophy as a guide to political action

SHOULD GENERAL Pinochet be extradited to stand trial for crimes against humanity? Should something be done to stop the massacres by Serbian forces? Clearly ethical issues. But what of the question of the legalisation of drugs, or of the treatment of juvenile offenders? Should... but hang on - this isn't philosophy!

A lot of political issues seem to have philosophical roots, ethical elements. We are interested to hear the views of philosophers, of course. And, where appropriate, lawyers, policemen, even economists may be consulted - but philosophers?

It may seem rather odd now, but the Ancient Greeks saw one of the key purposes of philosophy as a guide to action, helping to answer the question "what should I do?" So often the political, legal and even economic arguments are actually old philosophical ones. The names are changed, but the issues are the same. Strip away the irrelevant, superficial characteristics, and start to analyse the structure. The answers then, surely, can be better seen.

Gottfried Leibniz thought he had developed a kind of early computer which would be capable of gobbling up difficult ethical issues, digesting them, and spitting back an answer that all would accept. "Come, let us calculate," would be the recourse of all civilised people, faced

with such as Slobodan Milosevic and Augusto Pinochet.

In the 17th century, computers were rather rudimentary, consisting of bits but no bytes, and the dream remained a dream. But now, with machines capable of analysing a thousand times more information than is relevant, of processing a million more algorithms than there are people to think up algorithms, surely now can't we begin to use good philosophical principles to mechanically solve some of our pressing problems?

Well, let's try a few. Take General Pinochet. Let the computer adopt a utilitarian approach. We do not care what Pinochet has done (or not done). Will the happiness of the relatives of his victims outweigh the distress of his supporters? Will his trial increase or decrease the likelihood of other dictators committing atrocious crimes?

What are the principles involved? That no one should be allowed to be above the international principles respecting the sanctity of life, forbidding torture, and that political expedients are wholly amoral?

Or with Slobodan Milosevic, who has successfully used international law to allow himself the right to commit the most ghastly crimes for several years - what advantages are there to respecting the sovereignty of the nation state, even when it is a terminally sick gov-

ernment devouring its own citizens, if intervention could yet lead to chaotic spread of the contagious disease?

But already it seems that however useful and impartial the calculation, the argument over the rules programmed will be just as intense and insoluble as before. The issues remain stubbornly political and emotive, not to say irrational. The philosophers can come in and airily announce, like Rousseau, that they will begin by "setting aside the facts, as they will not affect the question", but they cannot set aside the starting assumptions (the axioms and the principles). And often that is where the disagreement lies.

At least with the problem of juvenile offenders, graduating on their tiresome diet of graffiti and vandalism to car crime, burglary and violence, we are on the safe ground of being able to test our hypotheses. Let the offenders be given money for clubbing, drugs for relief, and free access to the Internet! Then see how many give up offending. Later, let others be imprisoned in their own homes, or in special cells (still, of course, with Internet links, but now only to philosophical sites). Then watch their frustration fight with grudging acceptance of the might of the law.

But for that, we do not need the computer. Nor come to think of it, the philosophers.

Martin Cohen is the editor of 'The Philosopher'

## Sincere belief is insufficient defence

### FRIDAY LAW REPORT

22 JANUARY 1999

Pro Sieben Media AG v Carlton UK Television Ltd and another  
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker)  
17 December 1998

IN DECIDING whether the defence of fair dealing under section 30(1) or (2) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 had been made out, it was not enough for the user of the material to have the sincere belief, however misguided, that he or she was criticising a work or reporting current affairs.

The Court of Appeal allowed Carlton Television's appeal against a decision that it had infringed the copyright of Pro Sieben Media AG.

The plaintiff, a German television company, claimed that the defendants had infringed its copyrights by including in one of its programmes a 30-second extract from a German television programme, which had been broadcast by the plaintiff in a magazine programme called TAFF.

The plaintiff's programme was about Mandy Allwood, who was pregnant with eight live embryos as a result of fertility treatment. The plaintiff had made an agreement with Max Clifford, Ms Allwood's public relations consultant, giving it the exclusive right to broadcast an interview with Ms Allwood in Germany.

The defendants' programme was directed at, and critical of, chequebook journalism. The extract from the plaintiff's programme was shown with the name TAFF appearing prominently in the bottom right-hand corner of the picture, and, less prominently, the plaintiff's logo, a stylised figure 7, in the top right-hand corner.

The judge decided that the defendants had failed to discharge the onus of proving that the extract had been included

in their programme for the purpose of criticism or review within section 30(1) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, and that there had been insufficient acknowledgement.

He further concluded that the use of the extract by the defendants was not for the purpose of reporting the "minor but newsworthy event" that Max Clifford had sold an interview with Ms Allwood to German television, within section 30(2), but that if he were wrong about that, he was in no doubt that the use made of the extract was not fair in all the circumstances. The defendants appealed.

Martin Howe QC and Charlotte May (Denton Hall) for the plaintiff; Michael Silverleaf QC and Mark Vanhegan (Henry Hepworth) for the defendants.

Lord Justice Robert Walker said that the intentions and motives of the user of another's copyright material were relevant for the purposes of the defences available under section 30(1) and (2), particularly on the issue of fair dealing, so

far as it could be treated as a discrete issue.

It was not necessary, however, for the court to put itself in the shoes of the infringer of the copyright in order to decide whether the offending piece was published "for the purposes of criticism or review", and it should not give any encouragement to the notion that all that was required was for the user to have the sincere belief, however misguided, that he or she was criticising a work or reporting current affairs.

The judge had erred in principle in focusing too much on the actual purposes, intentions and motives of those involved in the planning and production of the defendants' programme, and in focusing too little on the likely impact on the audience. The programme had been made for the purpose of criticism of works of chequebook journalism in general, and in particular the then very recent treatment by the media of the story.

The use of the extract was fair dealing within section 30(1) of the Act, and the transmission of the plaintiff's logo had, in the circumstances, constituted sufficient acknowledgement. The defence under section 30(1) of the Act accordingly succeeded.

Furthermore, Ms Allwood's multiple pregnancy, its progress and its eventual outcome were on any view current events of real interest to the public, and the fact that Max Clifford had sold an interview to German television, albeit of limited and ephemeral interest, was also a current event. The defence under section 30(2) would, therefore, also succeed.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

RYLANDS: The funeral service of George H.W. (Dad) Rylands CH CBE, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, will be held in King's College Chapel on Monday 25 January at 3pm. No flowers, but donations may be sent to Cambridge Arts Theatre Trust, St Edward's Passage, Cambridge CB2 3PL.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number. The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Miss Mary Hayley Bell, playwright, 88; Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex, 74; Commander Lord Cotteloe, Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, 72; Sir John Cotton, former diplomat, 90; Sir Charles Davis, former Counsel to the Speaker, 90; Mr George Foreman, boxer, 51; Miss Ann Goddard QC, circuit judge, 63; Miss Margaret Hall, head of design, British Museum, 63; Professor Cyril Hogarth, physicist, 75; Lord Hughes, former Minister of State for Scotland, 88; Mr John Hurt, actor, 59; Miss Piper Laurie, actress, 67; Baroness Lockwood, former president, Birkbeck College, 75; Dr Lottie Newman, former president, Royal College of General Practitioners, 70; Sir Alfred Ramsey, former football manager, 79; Mrs Claire Rayner, journalist and broadcaster, 68; Mrs Gillian Shepherd MP, 59; Miss Ann Sothara, actress, 90; Sir Michael Spicer MP,

56; Sir Hilary Talbot, former High Court judge, 87; Sir Graham Wilkins, former chairman and chief executive, Thorn EMI, 75.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: George Gordon Byron, sixth Baron Byron, poet, 1788; August Strindberg, playwright, 1849; David Wark Griffith, silent film producer and director, 1875. Deaths: William Paterson, founder of the Bank of England, 1719; Queen Victoria, 1901; Walter Richard Sickert, painter, 1942. On this day: the Falkland Islands were ceded to Britain by Spain, 1771; Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour prime minister, took office, 1924; the first broadcast of a football match took place (Arsenal v Sheffield United) at Highbury, London, 1927. Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius the Persian, St Brithwald of Ramsey, St Blesilla, St Dominic of Sora, St Vincent Pallotti and St Vincent of Saragossa.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Julia Tozer, "Entrances and Exits (iii)", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Pat Earnshaw, "Identifying Needle Laces", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Sex, Creativity and Reputation: Moore, Hepworth and Epstein", 1pm. British Museum: Rachel Ward, "Introducing 'Edward Falkener, a Victorian Orientalist'", 11.30am.

#### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.17pm. United Synagogue: 0181-343 8888. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2283. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-589 1883. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-259 2572. New London Synagogue (Moorfields): 0171-325 1024.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York, Patron, visits the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, London NW3. The Princess Royal opens St Julia's Hospice at St Michael's Hospital, Hayle, Cornwall; visits the Humphry Davy School, Penzance, and opens new buildings; opens the Centre for Foundation Studies at Cornwall College, Pool. Redruth: visits Philip Carr Marketing, Long Rock, Penzance; and visits Classic Cottages, Leslie House, Helston. The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, attends an evening discourse by Professor Susan Greenfield at the Institution, Albemarle Street, London W1.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.



It is well known  
fed a reduced  
humans, would  
to a cream



## ON LOCATION

By comparison, last year I was

Thailand buying drugs; she'll be at a funeral in Turkey; and he'll be having a bunk-up in Norway." Every plane that passed

They were kept overnight, he said, but once the Americans accepted that they were plane-spotters, they gave them a big

Maybe Saddam's a plane-spotter specialising in Stealth bombers. And the only way he could tick it off was to kick out the weapons inspectors. So on the first night of the bombing, he was on the roof of his palace screaming "Got it at last."

If you told a farmer in a stricken part of Africa hungry might make him the kindest reply you could would be a pitying shake. And yet, since the mid-70s been known that feeding laborers the bare minimum needed to lengthens their lives by as much as a year may not seem much, but if your lifespan is just 40 to start with, a year's extension is a big deal. Recent research shows that severe restriction in short-lived animals activate a "time out" strategy in periods of hunger. Supposing, for humans, too—something we do yet—could we hack all those hours and nights for the sake of 30 more and the same? But even if it doesn't count—we can look to calorie restriction as how the rate of aging is slowed in insects and humans, too.

Under-feeding in human beings news. Famine stunts growth and lives. If you are a woman, hunger babies you carry. It even hampers geration if your baby is a slave. woman's egg supply is formed when self is an embryo. If a mother is starved, daughter's fertility may be affected. Calorie restriction, however, maintenance. Described as "under- without malnutrition," calorie r provides essential nutrients, but w reduced total energy intake. In rats, reducing energy intake by 30 percent increases lifespan by around 25%. Unsurprisingly, the calorie-restricted mother and smaller. It also lengthens own its fertility. But, apart from obvious differences, calorie-restricted animals are in many respects healthier. perform better in tests of stamina and endurance, they have reduced risk of developing cancer, and, in keeping with longer lifespans, they appear to age more slowly. Internally, they are better at repairing damaged molecules, such as DNA, and proteins attacked by free radicals.

How does calorie restriction do this? Could it just be that it is not the restricted diet that is abnormal, but the access to food that is? That offers continuous access to an unlimited "food supply." The typical laboratory rat lives all its life in the rodent equivalent of a fast-food restaurant. Alert to this, some researchers have shown that calorie restriction still works when the animals are compared with others fed a control diet which avoids any tendency toward coming overweight.

Another idea is that calorie restriction simply reduces metabolism, slowing the production of toxic by-products such as free radicals. This harks back to an early theory called the "rate-of-living" theory, according to which organisms with a high metabolic rate live shorter lives. This has since been shown to be false – eg birds have higher metabolic rates than mammals, yet live whole the year longer. In fact, the metabolic rate per gram of body mass is, if anything, increased in calorie-restricted mice.

At first sight, it seems paradoxical that a mouse or a rat puts more effort into metabolism when food is scarce, but it is a way to explain it. Animals in need to cope with a variable food supply. Good times are interspersed with

Crimewatch's eight million viewers know they  
just might recognise someone. By **Ann Treneman**



crimewatch uk

The actors speak only words that were said. This can sound ridiculous because real life simply is not like a Tarantino movie. "You're the sort of girl

**Nick Ross and  
co-presenter Jill Dando**

cence," says Katie Thomson. She has decided to show details of four of the attacks — though no real violence is allowed — and shorter versions of the other two. She has met all the victims. Four agreed to be filmed. She says that it is these interviews, shot in silhouette, that provide her reconstruction with its grit and its drama. The story line is organised around the appeal points. "I always ask: how do you make a film that will make people want to phone in? It has to move people and make them help," she says.

This is the trademark of *Crimewatch* reconstructions. Most real-life crime television shows are aimed at entertaining, and use all the techniques of drama to make life seem hyper-real. But *Crimewatch* takes real life and makes it less dramatic. It lets the victims keep hold of their own stories. "It is about real people and getting away from the soundbite," says Ms Kumar.

"Working on this programme is so humbling. You come across such raw grief and you see such courage." Back in the alley, it's a wrap. The crew heads for the next crime scene. I head for somewhere warm, and wish someone would just tear down this alleyway so it would not exist.

**Q: Who invented the rubber band?**  
According to *Harwin Chronology on Inventions, Innovations and Discoveries* by Kevin Desmond (1987), it was Stephen Perry of Messrs Perry and Co, Rubber Co Manufacturers, London, from vulcanised rubber.

**Q: How do you determine the sex of a tarantula?**  
When tarantulas are young the all look like females, but as they get older their sex becomes more obvious. Adult males have hooks on their front legs and their stomachs are smaller than females'. Also, the males' "pedipalps" (the feely bits that stick out of the head) are shaped like clubs. However, it may take 10 moults, or about seven years, for these differences to become obvious.

**Q: Why is Madame Curie so famous? What did she do?**  
Marie Curie is often portrayed as a sort of scientific saint – the Florence Nightingale of physics. In reality, like Florence she was as tough as old boots and an able administrator. She was a left-wing atheist who at one point was involved in a terrific scandal: she was accused of breaking up another



## Public Notices

## Legal Notices

**BANKS, Frederick, Ronald George** Baker  
late of Beckton, Middlesex  
died at Stamford, Middlesex,  
on 21st April 1968  
(Estate about £6000)

**BARTLEY, James** Bartlett  
late of Baginbun, West Sussex  
died at Clackham, West Sussex  
on 5th February 1968  
(Estate about £2000)

**BALCH, Leonard** Black  
late of Worcester  
died there on 15th January 1968  
(Estate about £5000)

**BROWN, Peter James** Brown  
late of New Southgate, London N11  
died at Enfield, Middlesex  
on 8th August 1968  
(Estate about £1000)

**CLARKE, Alfred Bruce** Clarke  
late of Birmingham  
died there on 24th May 1968  
(Estate about £15000)

**CLARKE, Florence** Clarke  
late of Sheffield, South Yorkshire  
died there on 29th December 1967  
£200000  
(Estate about £22000)

**COZGROVE, Michael** Cozgrove  
late of Brighton, East Sussex  
died there on 4th September 1968  
£25000  
(Estate about £25000)

**FLAHERTY, John Thomas** Flaherty  
late of Birmingham  
died there on 10th October 1968  
(Estate about £2000)

**FLETCHER, Thomas** Fletcher  
late of Skegness, Lincolnshire  
died there on 14th May 1968  
£1000  
(Estate about £1000)

**FRANCE, RUTH ELLEN** France  
late of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands  
died there on 1st September 1968  
(Estate about £5000)

**GUTTUN, Norman** George Guyton  
late of Walslow, Cheshire  
died there on 1st October 1968  
(Estate about £3000)

**HAMSTON, otherwise HAMPTON otherwise HAMPTON**  
Mary Ann Hamerton otherwise Mary Ann Hampton otherwise  
Mary Ann Hamerton otherwise Mary Ann Hampton otherwise  
late of Cricklewood, London NW2  
died there on 27th March 1968  
(Estate about £7000)

**HARRISON, John** Harrison  
late of Newark, Nottinghamshire  
died at Workson, Nottingham  
on 10th April 1968  
(Estate about £1500)

**JEFFREY, Graham Kenneth** Jeffrey  
late of Bedford  
died there on 13th March 1968  
(Estate about £5000)

**KORRIS, Frank** Korris  
late of Stockbridge, Hampshire  
died there on 5th October 1968  
(Estate about £7000)

**KUBERMAN, Mrs HUBERMAN, Eva** Kerenkushka nee Huberman  
widow  
late of Kington-upon-Thames, Surrey  
died there on 1st September 1968  
(Estate about £8500)

**McKIE, George** James McKie  
late of Gateshead, Tyne & Wear  
died there on 24th March 1968  
(Estate about £12000)

**METCALFE, David** Joseph Metcalfe  
late of Leytonstone, London E15  
died there on 24th February 1968  
(Estate about £7000)

**METZ, Patricia Mary** Metz  
late of Finchley, London N12  
died at Dartmoor, Hertfordshire  
on 10th April 1968  
(Estate about £15000)

**PEARMAN, Alan William** Pearman  
late of Southsea, Hampshire  
died there on 20th December 1967  
(Estate about £8000)

**ROBERTS, James** Mary Roberts  
late of Worcester  
died there on 14th September 1968  
(Estate about £5000)

**RUNKLEY, Andrew** Banks Runkley  
late of Sheffield, South Yorkshire  
died there on 3rd July 1968  
(Estate about £2000)

**ROSE, Philip** Rose  
late of North Kensington, London W10  
died there on 11th February 1968  
(Estate about £8500)

**STUBBS, Leonard** Ralph Stubby  
late of Bristol  
died there on 22nd April 1968  
(Estate about £8000)


**WALSH, Clifford Francis** Walsh  
late of Bristol  
died there on 11th June 1968  
(Estate about £5000)

*The Widow(er) and kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.L.), Queen Anne's Chambers, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3JX, failing which the Treasury Solicitor will apply to the High Court for an order.*

## Legal Notices

[illegible]

## Public Notices

  
OFFICE of the  
RAIL REGULATOR

**THE RAILWAYS ACT 1993**

Licence Application by  
**London and North Western Railway  
Company Ltd. ('the Applicant')**

**Company Registration Number: 2880012**  
**Principal address of the Applicant:**  
**Crewe Heritage Centre,**  
**Vernon Way,**  
**Crewe**  
**CW1 2DB**

**Directors of the Applicant:**  
**Peter Alan Waterman (Chairman)**  
**Anthony John Mosley**

The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with section 8 (4) of the Railways Act 1993 that he proposes to grant a light maintenance depot (LMD) licence and a network licence (in order to operate the network within the LMD) to the applicant on the grounds that, subject to compliance with all necessary legal requirements, it appears to him to be a fit and proper person to be the holder of such a licence and to operate the railway assets in question. Any person who wishes to make any representation or objection with respect to the proposed licence should send such representation or objection to:

*Ms Assia Diarru*  
*Licensing and Standards*  
*Passenger Services Group*  
*Office of the Rail Regulator*  
*1 Waterhouse Square,*  
*138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2TQ*

*not later than 19 February 1999*

*Dated 22 January 1999*

*Chris Bolt,*  
*Rail Regulator*

Charities


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# CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS


need our love and practical support, not just today but every day. Sadly, money cannot buy healthy kidneys but it can make life worth having.

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E.B.S.A.

## Charities

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# SCIENCE

## Hungry for a longer life?

It is well known that rodents live longer if fed a reduced-calorie diet. If it worked for humans, would any of us prefer longevity to a cream cake? By Tom Kirkwood

If you told a farmer in a drought-stricken part of Africa that going hungry might make him live longer, the kindest reply you might receive would be a pitying shake of the head. And yet, since the mid-Thirties it has been known that feeding laboratory mice and rats the bare minimum needed for survival lengthens their lives by as much as a year. A year may not seem much to you and me, but if your lifespan is just three years to start with, a year's extension is a lot. Recent research shows that severe calorie restriction in short-lived animals may activate a "time-out" strategy to cope with periods of hunger. Supposing it works for humans, too – something we don't know as yet – could we hack all those hungry days and nights for the sake of 30 more years of the same? But even if it doesn't – or if we can't – we can look to calorie restriction to tell us how the rate of ageing is controlled.

Under-feeding in human beings is bad news. Famine stunts growth and shortens lives. If you are a woman, hunger harms the babies you carry. It even harms the next generation if your baby is a daughter. A woman's egg supply is formed when she herself is an embryo. If a mother is starved, her daughter's fertility may be affected.

Calorie restriction, however, is not malnutrition. Described as "under-nutrition without malnutrition", calorie restriction provides essential nutrients, but with a much reduced total energy intake. In mice and rats, reducing energy intake by 30-50 per cent increases lifespan by around a third. Unsurprisingly, the calorie-restricted rodent is lighter and smaller. It also tends to shut down its fertility. But, apart from these obvious differences, calorie-restricted animals are in many respects healthier. They perform better in tests of stamina and endurance, they have reduced rates of developing cancer, and, in keeping with their longer lifespans, they appear to age more slowly. Internally, they are better at repairing damaged molecules, such as DNA and proteins attacked by free radicals.

How does calorie restriction do all this? Could it just be that it is not the calorie-restricted diet that is abnormal, but the diet that offers continuous access to an unlimited food supply? The typical laboratory rat lives all its life in the rodent equivalent of a fast-food restaurant. Alert to this criticism, researchers have shown that calorie restriction still works when the animals are compared with others fed a controlled diet, which avoids any tendency towards becoming overweight.

Another idea is that calorie restriction simply reduces metabolism, slowing the production of toxic by-products such as free radicals. This harks back to an early notion called the "rate-of-living" theory, according to which organisms with a high metabolic rate live shorter lives. This has since been shown to be false – eg birds have higher metabolic rates than mammals, yet on the whole they live longer. In fact, the metabolic rate per gram of body mass is, if anything, increased in calorie-restricted mice.

At first sight, it seems paradoxical that a mouse or a rat puts more effort into its metabolism when food is scarce, but there is a way to explain it. Animals in the wild need to cope with a variable food supply. Good times are interspersed with bad.

Hibernating animals deal with the regular lean times of winter by entering a state of torpor. An alternative, when interruptions in food supply are less predictable, is to be flexible about how energy resources are used. Making the best use of available energy is critically important in the harsh struggle for existence. In particular, an animal needs to pay special attention to how it allocates energy between maintenance and reproduction. Getting the balance right is, literally, a matter of life and death. It may explain why we age.

Some years ago, I suggested that the reason we age is that, under the imperative of natural selection, our genes evolved a strategy whereby, in effect, they treat the body, or soma, as disposable. The highest priority of the genes, from a Darwinian point of view, is to invest in offspring. Investing in a long life is of secondary importance – hence the "disposable" soma. We invest enough in maintenance to keep the body in good shape through what would have been the normal life expectancy of our ancestors – when life was nasty, brutish and short – but no more than that.

If the energy supply fluctuates unpredictably – a problem that is particularly acute for small animals with limited fat deposits – a key question is just how much should be invested in maintenance when the going gets tough. Should the animal neglect the maintenance of its soma and put all its energy into a last-ditch effort at reproduction? Or should it suspend reproduction until its prospects of successfully raising a litter are brighter? If it chooses the second option, it may even want to increase its maintenance and keep its soma in prime condition for making babies in the future.

The UK Treasury has powerful computer models to help explore the best options for deploying its fiscal budget, and it was to a computer that my colleague Daryl Shanley and I turned to investigate the best strategy for a mouse with its budget of calories. We developed, in effect, a "virtual" wild mouse. We challenged the virtual mouse with periodic bouts of "food shortage" and allowed it to evolve its optimal strategy. What we found was deeply interesting. When there was lots of food available, the virtual mouse did just what the real mouse does – it reproduced, and tuned its investment in maintenance to give a lifespan of around three years. But when the food supply fell, and the mouse could no longer manage both to maintain itself and to reproduce, it abandoned reproduction, it increased the effort it put into maintenance, and it lived longer. In other words, the computer model confirmed that the life-extending properties of calorie restriction make evolutionary sense.

No one knows whether calorie restriction works in humans, but let us suppose for a moment that it can. What would we have to do to gain our longer lives?

Mice and rats show the greatest gain when food is restricted early in life, soon after weaning. Such practice would be ill-advised in humans because it stunts growth and interferes with learning. The eating disorder anorexia nervosa, when it occurs in adolescents, delays or blocks reproductive maturation and bone development. Nevertheless, even when started only in adult animals, calorie restriction has a significant, though lesser, effect on lifespan. For



Calorie reduction may not lead to longer life, but it can tell us how the rate of ageing is controlled. Hulton Getty

humans, 18 might be a good age to begin. A reasonable target for a calorie-restricted human might be 70 per cent of the normal diet. Herein lies the obvious difficulty. A typical maintenance diet for an office worker is 2,000 calories a day for a man and 1,800 for a woman. Reducing this to just 1,400 or 1,260 calories a day is an unappealing prospect. We will need to find ways to trick our bodies into feeling sated, even though our energy intake is so low that it would have most of us ducking into the nearest café for a hefty snack. Goodness knows, most of us eat far too much. We continue to do this –

and to eat the wrong things – even though we know full well that it is bad for us.

In spite of being hooked on what for many of us are unattainable ideals of slender bodily perfection, we are tempted by high-calorie products such as chocolate bars, cream cakes and chips. The real difficulty with going hungry is that the benefits of a healthy old age, and maybe even of some extra years of life, seem pretty remote when you are tempted by immediate gratification.

Let's not be too gloomy if we can't match up to those sleek but hungry little mice. Calorie restriction is telling us a lot about the

processes that affect the rate of ageing. No doubt, as we learn more, we will find other ways to use these insights to combat the diseases of ageing and to enhance our quality of life in old age.

Tom Kirkwood is professor of biological gerontology at Manchester University. His latest book, *Time of Our Lives*, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £20. He will be giving the keynote speech at an ICA forum on Science, Ageing and Immortality, on 4 February at 7.30pm, at the Royal Institution, London (0171-930 3647)

### UPDATE

**HUMAN EMBRYONIC** stem cells are not covered by the United States' ban on state funding for human embryo research, the US National Institutes of Health has declared. The legal opinion, issued earlier this week, is an important milestone for US scientists aiming to investigate the possible benefits of stem cells, for example to grow new organs for adults. The ban defines an embryo as an "organism" – which stem cells, being individual elements, are not, the NIH declared.

**DOLLY THE** sheep was the success; but many attempts to clone animals or produce them by in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) have resulted in very large foetuses which did not survive in the womb. Now, teams in the US and Scotland have found that levels of IGF-2, a protein which promotes growth, were much higher in the livers of cow foetuses produced by IVF rather than artificial insemination. "It suggests that the IVF procedure somehow reprograms the IGF-2 gene," Patrick Blondin of North Carolina State University told *New Scientist* magazine.

**UNDERGROUND** volcanic activity on ancient Mars sculpted gorges far larger than the Grand Canyon in the United States, and melted enough water to create floods of biblical proportions, according to two British geologists.

Dan McKenzie and Francis Nimmo at Cambridge University suggest that huge wedges of molten rock – known as dikes – stretched the surface, and also melted vast amounts of ice, causing colossal floods thought to have scoured Mars's surface between two and three billion years ago.

The theory, put forward in *Nature*, suggests that some water could have been trapped underground to provide the sort of warm, moist oases where other scientists have suggested that life could have survived.

**SETI, THE** Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, has begun looking for visible signs of alien life. Previously, groups working for Seti have relied on listening for radio messages – often in the so-called "hydrogen band" at microwave frequencies. But the new initiative at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Smithsonian Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will use optical telescopes. One will look for short pulses of light, as brief as a billionth of a second, from nearby stars while the other will look for steady, extremely narrow band laser pulses, or single-colour light signals. CHARLES ARTHUR

### TECHNOQUEST

**Q: Who invented the rubber band?**  
According to *Harwin Chronology on Inventions, Innovations and Discoveries* by Kevin Desmond (1987), it was Stephen Perry of Messrs Perry and Co, Rubber Co Manufacturers, London, from vulcanised rubber.

**Q: How do you determine the sex of a tarantula?**  
When tarantulas are young they all look like females, but as they get older their sex becomes more obvious. Adult males have hooks on their front legs and their stomachs are smaller than females'. Also, the males' "pedipalps" (the feely bits that stick out of the head) are shaped like clubs. However, it may take 10 months, or about seven years, for these differences to become obvious.

**Q: Why is Madame Curie so famous? What did she do?**  
Marie Curie is often portrayed as a sort of scientific saint – the Florence Nightingale of physics. In reality, like Florence she was as tough as old boots and an able administrator. She was a left-wing socialist who at one point was involved in a terrific scandal: she was accused of breaking up another

physicist's marriage, which eventually led to a duel. (Not involving her, though.)

Marya Skłodowska, as she was originally called, was the daughter of a Polish science teacher. She went to study physics and chemistry in Paris, where she married a physics professor, Pierre Curie. In 1897 Marie decided to study radioactivity for her doctorate. She began by working through all the elements then known, and found that uranium and thorium were radioactive. She then tried minerals and discovered that uranium ore (pitchblende) was far more radioactive than it should be for the uranium that it contained.

Marie suggested that the ore contained an unknown, but highly radioactive, element in such a small concentration as to be invisible. Having little money, she and Pierre were forced to work in an old shed that had been a mortuary. It took them four years to extract a tiny quantity of radium from several tonnes of ore. They took very few precautions against the radiation, and even today Marie Curie's notebooks are still too radioactive to handle.

She received two Nobel prizes for her work on radioactivity before she died of

leukaemia at the age of 67.

Continuing the family tradition, one of the couple's daughters, Irene, and her husband discovered how to make things radioactive using neutrons. They also received a Nobel prize.

**Q: How many stars are there in a constellation?**  
The number varies a lot. They are counted by measuring the number of stars that can be seen in an area of the sky. The Southern Cross has lots of stars – 19.6 per 100 square degrees of sky. Most others have between five and six per 100 degrees. An easier way is to count the number of bright stars.

In the northern hemisphere, Centaurus has 18 bright stars. Canis Minor has only two.

**Q: How heavy is the Earth's atmosphere?**  
Assuming the Earth to be a perfectly flat sphere with an air pressure of 9.65 x 10<sup>4</sup> newtons per square metre (14 pounds per square inch) all over its surface, the atmosphere weighs 4.9 x 10<sup>18</sup> newtons (a mass of about 5 million billion tonnes).

You can visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.science.net.org.uk>

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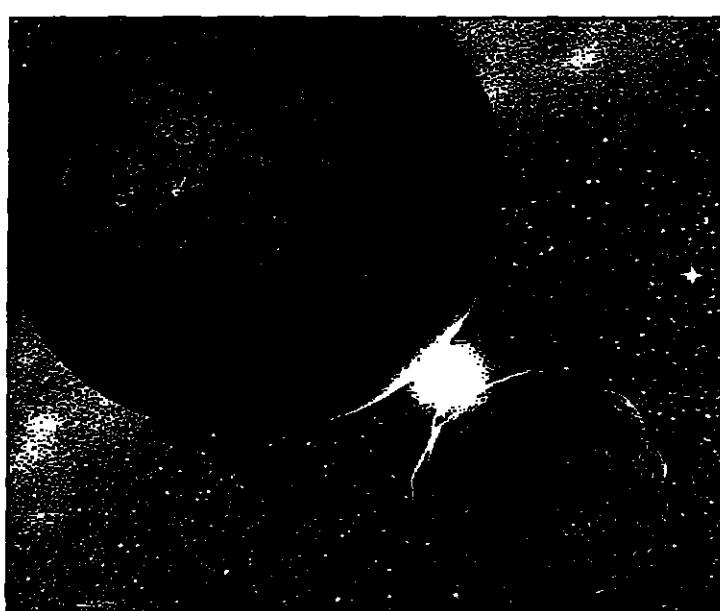
#### PLUTO

WHEN IS a planet not a planet, but just a lump of rock with a predictable orbit? That question is weighing on the minds of two groups at the International Astronomical Union (IAU), who are considering whether our solar system has nine planets, or just eight.

The object of their musing is Pluto, usually the farthest planet from the Sun (though this year, for the first time this decade, its elliptical orbit passes inside that of Neptune). Discovered in 1930, almost 100 years after Neptune, Pluto takes 248 years to orbit the Sun and has a diameter of just 2,300km (1,440 miles), less than that of our own Moon. Its mass is just 0.2 per cent of that of the Earth, though it can boast its own moon, Charon, with a diameter of 1,270km.

But the IAU thinks that is not sufficient to merit inclusion with a grouping that ranges up to the huge Jupiter, 318 times the mass of Earth. Instead they are thinking of either reclassifying Pluto as a "minor planet", or lumping it in with an entirely new class of objects.

The underlying problem is that nobody has ever defined what a planet really is.



Pluto may be classified as a minor planet. Science Photo Library

However, in many ways Pluto does not seem to be similar to the eight bodies that are. In fact it is more like a comet: its orbit is more

elliptical than ours, and is inclined to the plane of the other eight planets by 17 degrees.

Even Patrick Moore, the respected astronomer, comments in his book *Mission to the Planets* that: "Altogether, Pluto is a maverick, and there are grounds for doubting whether it is worthy of true satellite status." Towards the end of the

belt is thought to be the source of the comets that occasionally dive into the centre of the solar system, past the Sun.

Hence the IAU's unease. "For at least 20 years, it's been obvious that Pluto doesn't fit," says Mike A'Hearn, an astronomer at the University of Maryland, who heads the Planetary Systems Sciences Division of the IAU.

Dr A'Hearn wants to create a new class of objects for ice-balls that orbit beyond Neptune, and call them Trans-Neptunian Objects. Pluto would then be Trans-Neptunian Object No 1.

Brian Marsden, of the IAU's Minor Planet Centre, says he has a better idea. He'd like to see Pluto classified as a "minor planet," of which there are thousands, then made to take a number. The prized number 10,000 will probably come up next month. And, Professor Marsden says, it would not be a demotion for Pluto to be referred to as the 10,000th minor planet: "It's an honour," he insists.

But to Alan Hale, one of the astronomers to discover Comet Hale-Bopp, the whole debate is rather silly. "A hypothetical resident of Jupiter would probably laugh at our calling Earth a 'major planet'," he points out.

CHARLES ARTHUR



# Nicely brought up but badly behaved

In the classic Decadent text of the late 19th century that was to influence Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the anti-hero of JK Huysmans' *Against Nature*, the Comte des Esseintes, retires to a Parisian suburban villa to indulge his taste for exquisite objects. His epicurean pursuit reaches its apogee when he decides to have the shell of a tortoise embossed with jewels, carefully chosen so as to make a perfect aesthetic complement to his Persian rugs as the creature crawls around the house. However, it refuses to move; and the comte realises that his pet has perished, overwrought by the weight of gems on its back.

As we crawl through our own *fin de siècle*, weighed down by worries about the Millennium Bug, would anyone dare to replicate the comte's gesture? Perhaps. Louise Taylor, co-curator of the *Decadence* show that opens this week at the Crafts Council, quotes one of the exhibiting artists, Grayson Perry: 'Decadence in our age is not just a matter of bejewelled tortoiseshells and Venus flytraps, more an epidemic of hype, the cult of celebrity, 60-channel TV and worn-out irony.' It is an opinion borne out on Perry's pair of classic urns, apparently prettily decorated in gold, which on closer inspection are seen to feature sordid scenes of mayhem and murder.

Grayson Perry was among "50 or 60" artists contacted by the show's curators. They were asked "Does decadence exist now, and what does it mean to you?" The result is the *fin-de-siècle* cabinet of curiosities to be found here. Significantly, the show has been designed by Simon Costin, famous for his dead-animal jewellery in the Eighties. Costin's high fashion/art profile gives a glamorous if not dangerous edge to the display - he wanted to have the signs written in human blood, but was overruled by the Crafts Council on grounds of safety. The result is nonetheless impressive: a sepulchral interior of neo-classical black-velvet drapes latched by disembodied gilded hands - the sort of place a decadent's body might lie in state.

So are the contents lying in state, last gasp of de luxe one-offs in the age of increasing minimal utilitarianism? Mary Shoester, who, along with her co-curators Philip Hughes and Louise Taylor, has refined the show's intellectual approach, defines the aim of *Decadence*: "At the end of every century, culture becomes beset by where it's been and where it's going. Where is the happiness in life?" This worrying anxiety has an obverse side: a retreat to luxury. For Taylor, *Decadence* is about "redefining luxury... it's not

sequins, but cashmere"; the exquisite, the hand-made, the unique.

This show could furnish an entire apartment for a modern-day Comte des Esseintes: from Neil Wilkin's steel-and-crystal chandelier to Carl Hahn's rustic Gothic chair made for a young girl, "nicely brought up but badly behaved" from Karl's bleached splattered linen housecoat, to the Timorous Beasties' screen-prints of thistles and vine-entangled fish that resemble a William Morris for the 21st century.

You'd have to take out a second mortgage to be able to afford John Makepeace's *Fifteen*, a chest of drawers assembled from burl elm and wild cherry, its every joint and edge so rounded or mirrored as to become a sensual object in its own right. But your breath must be reserved for the back room where,

You thought the 1890s were the very last word in decadence, but our own *fin-de-siècle* is doing pretty well, too - going out in a flurry of disembodied hands, necklaces made of mock Viagra tablets, 60-channel television and an epidemic of hype. By Philip Hoare

Clockwise from bottom: Classic urn by Grayson Perry; 'Icarus' by Andrew Logan; chest by John Makepeace

hanging from the ceiling and dispensing reflected shards of light on to the other exhibits like a decadent benediction, is Andrew Logan's *Icarus* - the falling would-be angel with his wax wings, here rendered in mirror and stained glass, curving around him as he tips out of kilter.

Perhaps the pieces that best fit the purist's conception of decadence's deathly symbolism are David Hensel's jewellery. *One Day Off* is a necklace, fashioned from flame-like huffs of red silk and mock Viagra tablets (the 1968 Drug Act precluded the artist and the gallery from using the real thing); another choker, *Millstone*, aims an inert bullet at the wearer's jugular. A

neck-piece made of mammoth ivory and fine gold wire displays key words - "violence", "venom", "guilt". And most extraordinary of all is a garrotte in red silk, which recalls the red ribbons worn around the necks of French Revolutionaries.

Hensel's work "is designed to encourage extravagant behaviour... I feel decadence is a natural cultural phase, that indulgence in opulence, an amassing of high-quality decorative art, is always the decadence of the Patron, never the artist".

In a culture where time is the most precious commodity, notes

Shoester, to lavish time on self. Her favourite piece is Ingeborg Bratman's 12-ft-long necklace of Mabe pearls from the South Seas.

*Decadence* undoubtedly seeks to capitalise on a Zeitgeist. We live in an irony-ruled culture in which art has become almost an idea in itself, where Elton John can employ two people to arrange the 2,000 fresh flowers he orders for his London homes each week; where cocaine is the new opium of the masses (a truly decadent piece for the show's curators to have commissioned

might have been a coke-sniffing straw and mirror). Yet there is a sense in which decadence, as a continuing strand from successive *fin de siècle*, is a precursor to regeneration. She sees the show as having "the ambience of an 18th-century salon"; visitors are encouraged to sit on Carl Hahn's chair, to touch Neil Wilkin's chandelier. And, if they are in a truly des Esseintes frame of mind, they can buy it all, too.

*Decadence* is on at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY, 0171-278 7700, from 21 January to 14 March. Philip Hoare's *Wilde's Last Stand: Decadence, Conspiracy & the First World War*, is published by Duckworth, price £11.95

## Stowing the seeds of life

If the Earth dries out, how will we be able to make the desert bloom once more? The answer lies five metres below the Sussex Weald. By Nonie Niesewand

Botanists at Kew have plans to save the world in the next century when the world turns into one big desert. Deep underground, beneath their new laboratories at Wakehurst, in Sussex, opening next year, a seed bank stores 25,000 species from arid regions. By the year 2100, if the worst happens, they can forest the Sahara with prickly juniper, bring unknowns back to Somalia, and el baobab trees all around the impopular river in Africa.

Forget the rainforest - the scientists at Kew have, because they realise that only the politicians can save it. Logging is a political agenda, not a botanical one. But in the dried out, desolate areas of Australia, Africa, India, Mexico and Brazil - where the rainfall is less than 600mm a year - people eke out a living on dry soil so eroded that it blows away in the wind. One fifth of the world population lives in these arid regions.

Botanists estimate that one in eight plants every year are becoming extinct, leaving our planet forever. Scientists at the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew got the Millennium Commission to give

them a £30m Lottery handout, matched by donor-funding to a total project cost of £50m, to make a seed collection and a cluster of laboratories to house it. "It's costing as much as Chelsea FC would pay for a decent forward line, but will last a lot longer," says Roger Smith, project director at Kew.

Seeds are immediately X-rayed for insects that could destroy the whole collection. Once dried, the seeds are stored in an icy chamber at minus 20C. Every 10 years, some of them are germinated to check the batch hasn't passed its sell-by date. Designated a site of outstanding natural beauty and special scientific interest, the sloping spur of the Weald at Wakehurst was tricky. Any new building had to be "at once imperceptible but when perceived, of peerless quality", according to the planners. So Stanton Williams, the architects, placed the seed storage vaults five metres underground with the laboratories, greenhouses and a visitor centre on top.

To explain their elevations, the architects hand out a photograph of a long seed-pod. Pragmatic as well as poetic, the architects took their inspiration from a bean pod, swelling protectively around 10 hard-shelled

seeds, creating 12 barrel-vaulted buildings, each measuring 14.4m by 7.2m. Above the deep freeze, these single-storey vaulted labs cluster around the gardens in which pink drifts of sea-thrift thrive. Glazed at both ends, and facing east-west, they get maximum sunlight.

To get Lottery money from the Millennium Commission, Kew had to make their new outstation at Wakehurst accessible to the public. In a winter garden which doesn't really live up to its name, since nothing will grow there, an educational display introduces plants in their natural habitat.

When the new laboratories open in 2001, you will be able to come right into the core and, through the windows, watch the scientists at work ("which is about as exciting as watching paint dry," Roger Smith says dismally). The aim is to demystify the men in white coats, as well as let them work in a controlled environment.

"It simply says, here we are, this is what we do, and explains it to the visitor who can interpret it as they will. Wakehurst estate is all about private discovery, and the new building is in the same spirit," Smith says. The most powerful reason to

bank seeds, he believes, is their potential use in medicine. Members of the Women's Institute collect yew clippings because it is used clinically in a cancer drug called Taxol. The chemotherapy for childhood leukaemia, Vinblastin, is made from periwinkle plants.

Paul Williams of Stanton Williams believes that this is the first Lottery-funded project that is really meaningful. It's not just an excuse for a new building which everyone then wonders how to fill. "We've produced an environment which holds on to the DNA of plants and grafts it back again," he says.

Rooms for research and contemplation cloistered rhythmically about a courtyard planted with clipped Dutch elms are reminiscent of Le Corbusier's La Tourette monastery, where natural light streaming through coloured light wells, into the dim chapel, make one doubt Le Corbusier's avowed agnosticism.

Stanton and Williams took their practice to La Tourette in France for a week's retreat. "Did you know that Le Corbusier designed every space to mirror the proportions of those 100 cell-like rooms? So the chapel is exactly 100 times bigger in volume



The pod-style seed banks at Wakehurst in Sussex

Glynn Griffiths

than the 100 rooms. As you move about, you carry with you that imperceptible sense of personal space. It's an incredible experience," Paul Williams says.

At Chelsea Physic Gardens last Wednesday, Paul Williams and Roger Smith gave a joint lecture entitled "Architecture, Science and Spirituality". Not on religious grounds - although, it has to be said, there is something proselytising about the plight of our planet - but to capture the new age.

Few establishments have the credibility to embark upon such a

mammoth global quest. "We draw upon our links, not in the old spirit of the Empire when Victorians took away cuttings in their sponge bags, but with the co-operation of many countries responsible for their own actions."

"First we ask, 'Do you want to play?' then: 'Are you mandated?' With their informed consent, we begin seed-collection."

So what happens if global warming makes *Waterworld* the reality, rather than seas of sand? What use desert palms and thorn scrub then? Roger Smith is sanguine. "I'm not

Nostradamus and we can't solve all the world's problems.

"But I know that when I'm an old man sitting on Hove seaford, tucked up beneath a warm tartan blanket, I'll be glad we did something to shore up our heritage. Otherwise we have nothing to leave our children's children."

Sir David Attenborough, who is a trustee of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew in west London, writes a fitting epitaph for the project: "Without plants, there would be no animals, no human beings - no life on this earth."

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Greenaway in Edinburgh: 'I really do believe that the history of cinema has no comparison with the history of art'

Colin McPherson

# Every picture tells a movie

Peter Greenaway says cinema is dead. The fun's all going on elsewhere, and he's going to prove it. By Elisabeth Mahoney

At Edinburgh College of Art last week, Peter Greenaway greeted a packed lecture theatre with two provocations. "Contemporary cinema," he began in his customary delivery, all precise enunciation and rather pleased with what he's about to say, "is extremely boring, moribund, dead." The smarty-pants in the audience tittered, the scholars nodded, the rest of the audience - for whom Greenaway is one of the leading lights of contemporary cinema - looked a bit confused. "Bill Viola," he continued, now on a roll, "is 10 times more exciting than Scorsese." Less titters and confusion this time, and more nods, as the crowd settled down for what was to be a talk rather like the films he makes: controversial, deeply funny in places, a dazzling display of eccentric intelligence. And, let's not forget, a bit weird.

He kept saying, "I don't know whether you ever saw a film called..." when referring to his own films, he told us that we would be celebrating the Millennium either six years too early or four years too late and, declaring he felt rather constrained by the standard two-hour film format, talked about his new project, which will consist of just the four feature films, a 16-part television series, four or five CD-Roms

and a website. Well, what did you really expect from the man who brought us *The Baby of Mâcon*?

What you might not expect from him, though, is an exhibition of fine art. But this is what had brought him to Edinburgh, the opening of "Peter Greenaway: Artworks 63-98", a retrospective of work produced, unbeknown to much of his cinema audience, during his 35-year career as a film-maker. While it may come as no surprise that Greenaway's training was in fine art, given the visual complexity and experimentation of his films, it's something of a shock to discover that as well as making 49 films and videos over the years, including his best-known works *The Draughtsmen's Contract* (1982) and *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* (1989), Greenaway has produced a huge body of paintings, collages, photographs and installations. The work on show is but a tiny fraction of it.

On the day the exhibition opened, Edinburgh was in a bit of a Greenaway frenzy. The free tickets for his talk had all been snapped up well in advance, while the private view at the University's Talbot Rice Gallery was packed to the gills. "Which one is he?" I was asked an improbable number of times. And if the experience of Cornerhouse in Manchester, where the exhibition originated, is anything to go by,

the gallery can expect brisk business. Doubling the usual number of visitors for its exhibitions, the Greenaway show also sold 700 rather than the customary 150 exhibition catalogues.

Unsurprisingly, given the reason for his visit, Greenaway did his best to be seen as a visual artist who paints, makes films, curates exhibitions, stages operas and writes books, rather than as a film-maker who paints. Rather perversely, this involved giving cinema a thorough drubbing and turning his back on the medium for which he's best known. Whatever question I put to him,

more profound and entertaining than anything cinema has produced so far.

"I'm very pessimistic now about cinema. There are no interesting film-makers anymore. They have all gone to the new media." And it's tricky to ask Greenaway about the relationship between the films that we love (or loathe) him for and his paintings, as he refuses to admit any distinction between them. He relishes recounting a story about another journalist who suggested that they "leave the films aside for a minute and concentrate on the art" and, when someone tells him that

*'I'm very pessimistic now about cinema. There are no interesting film-makers any more'*

it was back to this theme. Why, for example, did he turn to a career in film after graduating from Walthamstow School of Art? "Cinema gave me the opportunity not just to deal with the imagery but with text as well, but I've somehow always felt that my moving into cinema would only be temporary... I really do believe that the history of cinema has no comparison with the history of art. We have had 2,000 years of image-making in terms of painting, which has produced thousands of different ideas

scenes from his films look like works of art, he has trouble containing his glee. "See, you've fallen into the trap!"

So I ask one of the exhibition curators instead. Alan Woods goes along with Greenaway's no-boundaries-between-different-media position. "The more you get into what he does, the more one film hits another film, a film hits a painting. He might have an idea for a film from a painting or maybe a film gets made and then it becomes a painting afterwards. So *Drown-*

ing By Numbers existed as a set of ideas before in *The Falls* [a series of collages from the late Seventies], then later as a book, *The Fear of Drowning*, some of which led back to *The Falls*. There's a genuine interrelation here and some consistent ideas you can follow through."

Inevitably, most visitors to the exhibition will come because of Greenaway's films and will see the paintings as a supplement to the moving images, the thinking behind them. But there are works relating to films most of us will never see, such as the rather neurotic map collages and images in *A Walk Through H*, relating to the little-known and very strange-sounding film of the same name from 1978. Equally, some images, like the beautiful blue painting *Jacques Falling into Water* (1997), relate to films not yet made, ideas which may or may not surface in future projects.

For the artist, the still images are a chance for what he calls "a private investigation" of the themes that obsess him, without concern for narrative structure or the box office. They're quieter, less shocking and esoteric than the films and, maybe if they weren't by Greenaway, we'd pass them by.

But it's as impossible to see them objectively in this way as it is to unravel where one idea begins and ends up in Green-

away's work. As Alan Woods puts it, if you know the films and see the exhibition, you realise that "everything's behind everything, but it's not present, it's always underneath". If that sounds a bit baffling, it won't once you've seen this show. Take the most recent work in the exhibition, *Half Woman*, a painting of a naked female lower torso. Greenaway painted the picture after finding a branch in his garden shaped like this while he was writing the script for his forthcoming film *Eight and a Half Women*, a homage to Fellini's *8½*.

The painting was to be seen in the film, although in the end it won't be, but it's clearly one of the threads feeding into Greenaway's work about Fellini's fantasies of female beauty. You can appreciate the film without this painting and vice versa, but seeing the different elements gives a rare insight into the way Greenaway works. He doesn't storyboard, he doesn't give off-pat explanations of the films, he loathes our reliance on narrative. As Woods puts it, "He gets everything together and then invents." It helps enormously, of course, if the trees in your garden grow branches shaped like naked female torsos.

*'Peter Greenaway: Artworks 63-98' is at the Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, until 20 February (0131-650 2211)*

## MICHAEL CHURCH

'Only Arthur Miller strikes a false note, the old windbag...'

PAGE 14

## When you'd really rather not know

THERE'S AN early conversation between Matt and his work-partner Rachel about whether it is desirable to know everything about someone or whether some mystery is preferable. The problem I have had with the previous plays in Brad Fraser's trilogy is that the audience knows only too immediately everything about his characters and that the comic-book influences that give them so much of their frame-filling extravagance also simplify them.

Matt and Rachel are in fact successful comic-book artists

### THEATRE

MARTIN YESTERDAY  
ROYAL EXCHANGE  
MANCHESTER

and their early hip wisecracking seems to promise more caricature. Matt, the likeable young married man who discovered he was gay in *Poor Superman*, seems to have flicked into an entirely new persona. But in Ben Daniels' strong performance he is still engaging and touchingly nervous as he begins a promising relationship with Martin.

Martin Yesterday (Ian Gelder) is an openly gay local politician tirelessly committed to making Toronto a more humane and decent place to live. For a while, Matt's creativity and Martin's gravity appear an open and mature alliance as they share knowledge of Martin's HIV and Matt's incipient depression.

But you cannot know everything about someone, and as more and more emerges about two of his ex-lovers, now his housemates, Martin's character complicates. Nor is it easy to get a fix on these two: the knowing Québécois Yves (Nathan Willock), and the out-of-his-face kid Rex, played by Daniel Roberts. But as Martin's personality first draws doubts and then darkness, so Matt reveals more of his own self-centred ruthlessness and disdain for "losers" among whom even Rachel (Ruth Lasse) comes to be counted. Here is the complexity of characterisation I missed in Fraser's earlier work.

Fraser's argument is that it is the distortions of relationships caused by the pressures of straight society on "sick" gays, and the real sickness of AIDS, that so confuse Matt and Martin and bring such destructive frustration.

Marianne Elliott directs the impassioned exchanges with clarity and force and is supported by a design team which ensures that the dance-club settings work as a metaphor for the whole urgent action.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

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EXPERIMENTAL REVIEWS ONLY



## MUSIC

## You hum it, I'll blow it up

What marks the end of the jazz road? Free improv, chaos, Cecil Taylor. Yet no one swings like Cecil and no one upholds the tradition more than his partner this weekend, Max Roach. By Phil Johnson

## LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, has agreed to the staging of nine Hyde Park gigs every summer for the next five years. The concerts will help to raise money for the royal parks. Artists lined up include Sting, Simply Red and Sir Cliff Richard

## Margaret's Noisy Neighbours



Here at Kensington Palace  
One sits and sips one's gin  
One closes all one's windows  
In case the noise comes in  
If one hears one more drumcheck  
Or roadie shout, "One two!"  
One won't be held responsible  
For what one's going to do.  
One knows of course, the artists  
One's heard of Simply Red  
But much more of Cliff Richard  
One might go off one's head.

One much preferred the Sixties  
One dug the Rolling Stones  
One played the early albums  
On Palace gramophones  
One quite enjoyed the concerts  
Shambolic though they were  
But what one can remember  
is somewhat of a blur.  
And these days, with Mick Jagger  
One tends to think, "Aye aye..."  
One makes one's own four-poster  
And that's where one must lie."

But none of this withstanding  
One finds the music lame  
It's all form and no content  
Which one thinks is a shame  
One sees these prancing boy groups  
Which one finds rather bland  
And wonders what became of  
The Edgar Broughton Band?  
One tried to get to Woodstock  
And Glastonbury Fayre  
One's sister put her foot down  
One's sister's such a square.

The American pianist Cecil Taylor (pronounced See-s'l) is just about the last stop on the line as far as jazz is concerned. Certainly, for those travelling on the modernist route, you can't really go any further. The various stations on the way - bebop, cool, hard-bop, modal - flash by and then you hit the Taylor terminus of totally free improvisation, where the yawning jaws of an immense abyss open up to swallow you. Although he's nearly 70 and his great breakthrough occurred 40 or so years ago, *opres* Taylor, there's still nothing but a dirty, great, black hole.

No wonder subsequent movements have doubled back to the comforting familiarity represented by chords and tunes, for after Taylor's forbiddingly dense improvisations post-modernism was perhaps the only place to go. And although a whole school of improvised music has grown up in response to his free-form experiments in the Sixties, it mostly isn't jazz anymore. Taylor's furious assaults on the keyboard most certainly are. No matter how fractured the arpeggios (you have to see Taylor in action to experience just how powerfully he hits those keys), there's always at least an echo of the jazz tradition to be heard. While he may never play two conventionally congruent notes, the music somehow continues to swing. You may even be able to dance to it, for one of Taylor's greatest influences and most abiding passions is the art of dance. He once said: "I try to imitate on the piano the leaps in space a dancer makes."

Cecil Taylor was born in New York in 1929, to a mother who was both a dancer and a pianist. After taking piano lessons from the age of six, he attended New York College of Music and later the New England Conservatory, where he was influenced by the heavy block-chords of Dave Brubeck's jazz piano playing. Although the influence sounds unlikely, Brubeck told me in an interview that Taylor used to look over his shoulder when he played in New York clubs.

"He said I was the missing link," Brubeck said. "But he didn't say between what and what." For his own part, Taylor has said of Brubeck: "I learned a lot from him. When he's most interesting, he sounds like me." Taylor's recording debut, the album *Jazz Advance*, made in Boston in 1956 (and produced by Tom Wilson, who would go on to produce Bob Dylan and the Velvet Underground), is a fascinating document. A quartet date with Steve Lacey on soprano sax, it's notable primarily because it showcases Taylor playing tunes, which he does very well. On compositions by Monk and Ellington, and standards such as Cole Porter's "You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To", he swings like the clappers, but the heavily percussive and melodically deconstructive elements of his mature style are there in embryo.

This quartet was the first group to play the Five Spot Cafe in New York, and Taylor was beginning to make a considerable reputation until the increasingly abstract character of his music, and the arrival in New York of Ornette Coleman



I try to imitate on the piano the leaps in space a dancer makes: Cecil Taylor (above), with drummer Max Roach (below) Redfern

with his more melodic concept of free jazz, consigned him to the outside berth once again. This, more or less, is where he has remained. A chapter on Taylor in AB Spellman's 1966 book, *Four Lives in the Bebop Business*, chronicles the years of struggle when he would be lucky to play more than a handful of gigs a year. His relationships with other musicians on the New York "scene" were strained, not only because of his uncompromising music, but also because he was a gay man in a largely homophobic jazz community. Perhaps as a result, he has tended to perform most often as a soloist, although he was involved with other "New Thing" players such as Jimmy Lyons, Albert Ayler and Sonny Murray in the Sixties, and these days he sometimes plays in the "Feel Trio" with bassist William Parker and the British drummer Tony Oxley.

Some of Taylor's most fruitful musical relationships have been with drummers, and Sunday's London date with Max Roach is therefore a tantalising prospect. Each will perform a solo set before coming together for the second half of the performance. They've played together before, but not for years.

Despite his principled refusal to compromise his art, it's hard not to see Taylor's outsider status as largely self-willed.



He appears to enjoy the role, and has probably profited from it, especially in Europe and Japan, where his rare appearances command large fees. Like Ornette Coleman, he has attained the almost mythical stature of a genius or guru figure, where eccentricity isn't just permitted but comes with the turf. Thus Taylor's performances are often strange affairs, part music and part theatre, with gnomish poetic outbursts scattered among his improvisations. And as geniuses are allowed to do anything they like, the audience is unlikely to ask for its money back.

As if to confirm his wayward genius, Taylor has been leading the British

press a merry dance these past few weeks. The first time I phone his number in New York, his assistant or partner or whoever answers. "Yes, he's here, but he's rather sour this morning," he says. Then, "No, wait a minute, he's coming to the phone now." The deep tones of Taylor's voice follow. He's sorry, but he's having breakfast. Can I try later? I do, but the promised interview never happens. It's been rumoured that Taylor wants cash for questions, and the promoter's offer of a fancy meal in London apparently isn't enough to make him talk.

In contrast to Taylor, Max Roach is approachable, if a little forbidding. When I interviewed him last year at his apartment on Central Park West, in a room decorated with African masks, Roach answered questions patiently from the lofty perspective of someone who isn't just speaking for himself, but for jazz in general. Incredibly, he's only five years older than Cecil Taylor but while the pianist has come to represent the end of the line, Roach has travelled the whole journey. Along with Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, he helped invent bebop before forming, with Clifford Brown in 1954, the first great hard-bop group. In the years since, he has kept pace with each succeeding development in jazz

while retaining an essential identity as the most intelligent of all drummers.

When it comes to the unfettered freedom that Cecil Taylor's playing appears to represent, Roach is more cautious, always keeping one eye on the past. "You're free to pick and choose but the concepts that you pick and choose must be as profound as those you learn from," he says. "Segregation, as convoluted as it seemed, kept the music in that rarefied atmosphere of creativity that was profoundly exhibited by Lester Young, Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and so forth, and the public knew exactly how to respond. Then, when the music began to branch out to the rest of the world, it seemed you could do anything, but it was never that. You had responsibility to the people who came before you. You could never just do anything."

So, on Sunday, the old sage (aged 74) and the young rebel (68) do battle on the Barbican stage. The great irony is that both these OAPs are still on the jazz train and rattling along into the future, while Wynton Marsalis and his generation are travelling in the opposite direction, trying, perhaps, to get back to the comforting certainties of the age of steam.

Taylor and Roach play the Barbican, London EC1, on Sunday (0171-638 8891)

## The Waldorf Pole Filter comes of age

Meet Stefan Betke aka Pole, the Kaiser of Dub. He comes from Germany and yet he's in love with repeat-echo. Odd that. By Ben Thompson

UPSTAIRS IN a converted Brixton church, a 30K sound rig is working its own electronic epiphany. The relentless, gnawing sound of hungry mice nibbling through an electric cable gives way to a strange, whooshing pulse. The volume of the bass stops just short of being frightening - imagine being picked up by a giant's hand and gently shaken so that your kidney ends up where your liver used to be.

One man is behind this disorienting but undeniably spiritual experience. He is, in the finest tradition of dub reggae, a German, and his name is Stefan Betke.

Recorded under the name of Pole, Betke's debut album (entitled, with characteristic understatement, *CD 1*) was one of the most quietly captivating records of last year: a digital surruration that swept the unwary listener into its gossamer babble. The trade-name Pole is no phalloscentric battle-cry, but a tribute to the Waldorf Pole Filter, one of the many obscure pieces of electronic equipment with which Betke interacts in the course of his day job as a tape operator at the Dubplates and Mastering studio in Berlin.

It's a sample from a broken Waldorf Pole Filter that supplies the

constant, oddly reassuring clicking sound which suffuses the whole recording. (It also, clicking-sound fans will be pleased to discover, looms large on the equally beguiling 34-minute follow-up *Pole 2*). Betke - a jovial individual with very well organised hair - obligingly fills in some historical background.

"I started out with a group playing avant-garde jazz in the early Eighties. We were using lots of samples and delay effects, and I was very impressed with the space echo." For the less technically minded among us, how does the space echo work, exactly? "It's very



Pole: a spiritual experience

simple - you don't need to know much about electronics. There is a tape inside the machine, the sound is recorded and then repeated - ding

ding - you can change the speed and for how long it is repeated, but that is all."

That "ding ding ding" is not the only aspect of Betke's work that will ring a bell with dub aficionados: his recordings have the same depth of field as a classic King Tubby or Keith Hudson reissue on Blood & Fire. The extraordinary thing about *CD 1* is that Betke recorded it while living in Cologne, with no knowledge of any reggae tradition beyond Bob Marley. When he moved to Berlin and played it to his new workmates at Dubplates and Mastering, they said (and you really have to enunciate this in

Germanically accented English to get the full effect of it): "OK, that's dubstyle!"

Has his subsequent crash course in dub science changed the way Betke makes music? "For me or for the audience?" For you, because everyone else knew about it before. "I suppose the main thing listening to dub taught me was that I am not alone in the studio with my crazy mind and this bing bing bing." (Betke's echo-chamber impression is getting more uncanny with every moment that passes.) "Now, when I find a melody and I think it's a bit like Augustus Pablo, I put it away."

Anyone who thinks it strange that a reformed German jazz musician should find himself unknowingly echoing the innovations of a century earlier should consider the overwhelming influence of Kraftwerk on the beginnings of hip hop. "So many styles of European music have been influenced by dub," Betke explains patiently. "At first sight, it seems strange that a man can come from where I do and make sounds like this, but it isn't: it's quite normal."

*"Pole 2" (KiffyPIAS) is out on 1 Feb*

## SLEEVE NOTES

IN A rare show of Euro-harmony, a number of UK musicians are uniting with other European acts in a high-profile move to fight music piracy on the Net. Many have welcomed the Net as a cheap alternative to traditional retailing - but not everyone. Not Robbie Williams, The Corrs and Boyzone, at any rate. After

all, music piracy is estimated to cost the industry more than £3m a year, world-wide.

HOWEVER, WITH an announcement this week by the Virgin group to the effect that it's opening an online record shop, the situation of privacy and copyright on the Net is fast

approaching critical mass. With 9 per cent of the US music industry expected to be online by 2002, according to Jupiter Communications, the five largest record labels have taken steps to formulate a working practice for Net sales, joining technology leaders such as AT&T Corp and American On-line to

develop means of delivering music over the Internet.

THE NOUVEAU Ska band No Doubt are staying true to their moniker by enlisting Glen Ballard - the wizard whispered to be the driving force behind Alanis Morissette's transformation from teen puppet to hit-

making neuro-diva - to helm their next album. Meanwhile, Depeche Mode (right) are turning down the chance to become the next Bond theme artists. They are too busy. Mind you, Bond themes never did much for A-Ha!



JENNIFER RODGER

**Irvine Welsh**  
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# THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



**BONNIE PRINCE BILLY**  
*I See A Darkness*  
Domino

WILL OLDHAM'S whimsical penchant for changing his name with each successive release (*Palace Brothers*, *Palace Music*, *Palace*, even *Will Oldham*) has already resulted in the Belfast leg of his tour being cancelled – or the suicidal stupidity – to advertise a show by Bonnie Prince Billy. You have to say it's their loss: *I See A Darkness* is Oldham's most beguiling release yet, a marvellous album which endows his characteristic melancholy with an uplifting, epiphanic grace. Oldham's compositions are exquisitely wrought pieces whose manner is always in perfect accord with their form – which here shifts more than ever towards traditional folksong. "A Minor Place" has the comely quality of rhymes that have been around forever and a day. And though "No-madic Revery (All Around)" builds to a

rousing, storm-tossed, gospel-shanty climax suggestive of derangement, the peculiar, convoluted shifts of tense in Oldham's verses have clearly been crafted like complex marquetry, syllables and shades of meaning slotting seamlessly together beneath the surface commotion. The album's real power, however, lies in the way Oldham makes it all seem so natural, the way his frail, fleeting delivery and weatherbeaten arrangements add a convincing patina of antiquity to these songs. They're not the musical equivalent of reprobate furniture, nor do they sound like retouched roots-music exercises – they really do have the authentic feel of songs that have been smoothed to perfection over centuries, like well-whittled sticks, or folk memories passed on at a mother's breast. The first essential album of the year.



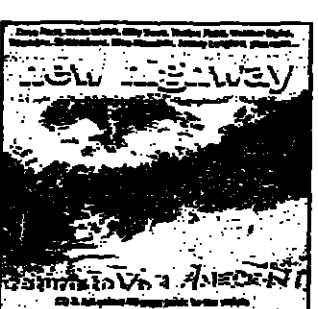
**BLACK STAR LINER**  
*Bengali Bantam Youth Experience!*  
WEA

THE ANGLO-ASIAN music explosion continues apace, with the pioneering rap and indie work of Apache Indian, Fun-Da-Mental and Cornershop succeeded by the cosmopolitan sound experiments of the Outcaste crew, Asian Dub Foundation and Black Star Liner – whose second album is a hugely enjoyable set of infectious trance-rock. The hypnotic chatter of the grooves is intriguingly detailed with sonic bric-à-brac – twists of star strings, hums, twangs and sabre-clash percussion. The band derives most of its idiosyncratic character, however, from the Indian- Trinidadian vocalist Choque Hossein, whose declaratory, toasting style is in the tradition of Bo Diddley and Beethoven and Big Youth: loud and enigmatic and often funny, too. When Choque rears up his engine in "Low BMW", he all but becomes the car: "heyggg... boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, brrrrrr! BMW, double double boom!" – with a demented dignity that's quite, quite mad, and quite perfect: a hit, a palpable hit.



**ALTERNATIVE TV**  
*Apollonia*  
Overground

THIS LATEST offering from the punk fanzine pioneer Mark Perry finds him still effectively – albeit ineffectually – fighting the battles of yesterday: tracks such as "Oh Shit, We Fell From Grace" and "Communication Failure" are slabs of sullen drone-rock over which Perry intones glum, misanthropic diatribes about hopes betrayed and youthful delusions dashed. "The spark went out/ the lads gave in", he notes in the latter, which places him in exactly the same position he was some 30 years ago. The "dirty realism" that marked ATV's debut flexidisc "Love Lies Limp", meanwhile, has decayed into tawdry, not-quite-porno-graphic details. Musically, ATV are moving towards a more loops'n'beats oriented sound, though there are still remnants of the Fall-style riffs of yore – but the album's best prose art grind, "Just a Memory", is thrown away at the tail end of the album. Still, in these obsequious, consumer-friendly times it's good to find something with the authentic, pissy tang of welfare anomie.



**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
*New Highway*  
Abokados/Direct

THIS COMPILATION of American neo-roots music follows in the dusty footsteps of last year's *Loose and Vivo Americana* anthologies, but suffers from diminishing returns; this may be the most fertile strain of American rock, but there's clearly a limit on quality. The album takes its title from Dave Alvin's modern hobo blues, but too many artists either veer off down the prog-rock self-regard of Neal Casal's "Twilight of the Floods", or settle for routine covers of old folk-rock chestnuts such as "Whiskey in the Jar" and "Washed My Hands in Muddy Waters". But there's compensation in the rough, rodeo exhilaration of Slobberbone's "Engine Joe", a tale of a natural mechanic reduced to flipping burgers, and Nadine's "Closer", plumbing the deeper, darker environs of sadcore. Cajun influences creep in with Billy Swan's rollicking version of "Mystery Train" and the loneliness of the long-distance performer is best evoked by Kevin Welch's "5 Million 1 Thousand Miles", a lived-in voice conveying a life that's barely living at all.

## Superb vixen

**LIVE**  
GARBAGE  
WEMBLEY ARENA  
LONDON

GARBAGE ARE the thinking man's Republica. Both bands oscillate between Britpop, rock and grunge and are headed by commanding female vocalists with a penchant for controversy. But where Republica's frat-house rock is of fleeting interest, Garbage's more robust sound has a depth that has earned them respect and longevity. Sadly, the vigour found on their recorded material struggled to translate live as Shirley Manson's vocals were lost in the echoing acoustics of Wembley Arena. The introduction of a percussion section, sporadic techno rhythms and over-exuberant lighting served only to highlight the band's frailties. In the end it was up to Manson's trademark magnetism to bring the show to life. Manson is best in dominatrix mode. As she stomped up and down pointing at the boys in the front row and entreating them to howl down before her, she was the epitome of the Nineties femme fatale: strong, sexy and mouthy. But it seemed that this fiery redhead has grown tired of this persona. Despite her icily confident demeanour, Manson displayed a darker side fuelled by paranoia. Over and over again she referred to how her band has been insulted by critics, crying: "Why do I feel that the world conspires against me?" The words "freak" and "ugly" – recurring as she remembered her teens. Manson also seemed ill at ease with her audience – on one occasion, as she changed instruments, a hush fell across the auditorium which was suddenly broken as she belted, "why are you quiet? What's wrong with you?" A guest appearance from Chrissie Hynde put a merciful end to her whingeing: Manson returned to her supervixen ways, swishing her ponytail like a petulant teenager and spitting out the words as if she had a mouthful of grit. The pair of them performed a rabble-rousing duet of "Only Happy When It Rains," and the crowd roared. At the end Manson dropped to her knees in reverence, declaring Hynde "the real deal". This was the kind of spectacle that befits an arena show. The real deal indeed.

FIONA STURGES

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

## They came, they saw, they missed the boat

SEBADOH DO two things early on in their set. First, they cement a reputation for being as sweet as they are spiteful by swearing at a heckler and then apologising. Secondly, after much fumbling and tuning up – don't they have roadies? – they start their first song about 10 minutes after ambuling on stage. There goes the claim that they've got their act together. Sebadoh never change, and it's galling not least because the other

**LIVE**  
NME PREMIER GIGS:  
SEBADOH, ELLIOTT SMITH,  
HEFNER, QUASI  
THE ASTORIA  
LONDON

three bands on the first of the NME Premier Gigs are on to something. Elliott Smith's backing band, Quasi, play their bustling garage pop with grinning bonhomie. Then

drummer Janet Weiss starts bashing away with the same generous hostility she brings to her other band, Sleater-Kinney. Slinger-board player Sam Coomes chips in by squeezing some infernal noises from his tatty organ, and their breezy pop gets turned inside out by something nicely irascible. Three-chord pop needs Hefner grab the mallet quickly. With singer Darren Hayman's lecherous librarian pose matched by unapolo-

getic guitar abuse and nasal screeching, their tirades against ex-lovers sound as tart as ever. Elliott Smith shows his rough side, too. "Bottle Up and Explode!" Smith sings, and if he hadn't played it so cool at least one person might have done. Apparently, Smith hates being around "winners". He must like Sebadoh, then. Famously, Sebadoh miss their boat every time. They mess up gigs and ponder near-miss relationships in their

lyrics. They missed a potentially career-breaking tour with Nirvana, for obvious reasons. So much for main-man Lou Barlow's bite; remember how he formed Sebadoh as revenge against ex-Dinosaur Jr bandmate J. Mascis, or how he satirised indie music in 1992's blazing "Gimme Indie Rock"? True, their seventh album, *The Sebadoh*, is their most consistent. New single "Flame" is a looping and burn-wiggling bop infused with

samples and a hint of Northern Soul. It's a slight departure from their, while "Love is Stronger" is one of Barlow's gentlest probes at love's mess. Live, though, the rich mix of crunchy post-grunge, warm balladry, and soft, folksy pop becomes a string of between-song fumbblings and a sound like sludge. When they finally pull the rug out from under you with the awesome "Beauty of the Ride", it's too late. KEVIN HARLEY

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## ENTERTAINMENT: CONCERTS, THEATRE, WHAT'S ON

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BACH: Chromatic Fantasy & Fugue in D minor BWV902; Beethoven: Sonata in C minor Op.111; Liszt: Sonata in B minor (1855); Brahms: Violin Concerto No.2 in D major Op.77; Schumann: Concerto for Piano and Violin Op.34; Schumann: Concerto for Piano and Violin Op.34; Schumann: Concerto for Piano and Violin Op.34

**23 Jan 7.30pm**  
SEQUEIRA COSTA piano; Schumann: Waldensee Op.82; Chopin: Sonata Op.9; Liszt: Sonata in B minor (1855); Brahms: Violin Concerto No.2 in D major Op.77; Schumann: Concerto for Piano and Violin Op.34; Schumann: Concerto for Piano and Violin Op.34

**24 Jan 7.30pm**  
ALEXANDER MELNIKOV piano; Schumann: Sonata in A major Op.10; Schumann: Sonata in A major Op.10; Schumann: Sonata in A major Op.10

**25 Jan 7.30pm**  
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE  
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Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No.3 in G major BWV1068; Beethoven: Piano Sonata in E major Op.10 No.3; Schubert: Piano Sonata in B minor Op.98 No.1; Schubert: Piano Sonata in B minor Op.98 No.1

**26 Jan 7.30pm**  
GRIGORY SOLOVYOV piano; Beethoven: Piano Sonata in C major Op.51 No.3; Beethoven: Piano Sonata in C major Op.51 No.3

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**29 Jan 7.30pm**  
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**30 Jan 7.30pm**  
LITTON AU VOYAGE: GERALDINE MCGRATH soprano; PAUL MILON tenor; SIMON OVERY piano  
Litton Au Voyage: Geraldine McGrath soprano; Paul Milon tenor; Simon Overy piano

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# NEW FILMS

**BULWORTH (18)**  
Director: Warren Beatty  
Starring: Warren Beatty, Halle Berry  
Dog-tired and disillusioned at the end of an election campaign, woolly liberal senator Jay Bulworth (Beatty) turns suicidal loose-cannon; lifting the lid on US politics, hanging out in the 'hood and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap stylings. Beatty's *Bulworth* is a blast: crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely audacious and committed, savaging a corrupted democratic system in a way that few mainstream Hollywood films (and *Bulworth* is bankrolled by Murdoch's Fox Studios) would dare to do. At an age when he might be forgiven for resting on his laurels, Beatty's freewheeling, heart-on-sleeve romp puts him abruptly back in film's front rank. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End*

**CLASS TRIP (LA CLASSE DE NEIGE) (15)**  
Director: Claude Miller  
Starring: Clement Van Den Bergh, François Roy  
Pity poor Nicolas (Van Den Bergh): bed-wetting schoolboy fantasist with few friends and a domineering dad in François Roy's prosthetic-limb salesman. Spirited off on a school skiing trip, the nipper starts letting his own dark imaginings run away with him, as Miller's pungent child's-eye psycho-drama switches nervously between stark naturalism and florid dream sequences. Actually, there's a lot to admire in the tense, smouldering *Class Trip*. The trouble is, Miller gets over-fussy; he keeps messing with the mood, keeps letting air into the pressure-cooker. And you can spot the ending a mile off. *West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue Repertory, Cine Lumière*

**54 (15)**  
Director: Mark Christopher  
Starring: Mike Myers, Ryan Phillippe  
Christopher's retro-trip through the heyday of New York's Studio 54 boasts a glitterball turn from Myers (as club boss Steve Rubell), but not a whole lot else. What we have here is the huckstering hanger-on to *Boogie Nights* and *The Last Days*

of *Disco*'s leading lights: a garbled, under-developed run-through of dance-floor chic as Ryan Phillippe's colourless busboy falls in with the beautiful folk (Salma Hayek and Neve Campbell) and learns the downside of life in the fast lane. Tatty stuff, all told. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End Local, Acton Park Royal, Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Newham Showcase*

**HILARY AND JACKIE (15)**  
Director: Armand Tucker  
Starring: Emily Watson, Rachel Griffiths  
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pre sisters, Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). Sibling rivalries, a ménage à trois and terminal illness are all carefully navigated by Tucker's finely-wrought direction, though it's as an acting showcase that Hilary and Jackie really hits home. *West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill Local, Greenwich Cinema, Richmond Odeon*

**PRACTICAL MAGIC (12)**  
Director: Griffin Dunne  
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Sandra Bullock  
Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of mumbo-jumbo, *Practical Magic* sees Bullock and Kidman cast as two mismatched sisters raised from a line of witches and hexing any unlucky man who swings into their orbit. The canny star-pairing is soon spilt by an over-egged eye-of-newt broth that mixes *Bewitched* with *Beetlejuice* and *The Witches of Eastwick*. Its spick-and-span surface masks the turmoil of undigested influences. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End and local cinemas*

Xan Brooks

# GENERAL RELEASE

**THE ACID HOUSE (18)**  
A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of inner-city Edinburgh, and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. Less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more earthy, edgy and intense, too. *West End: Odeon Camden Town Local, Newham Showcase*

**ANTZ (PG)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

**THE APPLE (18) (PG)**  
Seventeen-year-old Samira Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose in the world by a visiting social worker. Part docudrama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is an extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

**BASE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)**  
The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak anatomical fairytale. *West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys And local cinemas*

**THE BOYS (18)**  
Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, eldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back to his mum's drab suburban home, terrorises his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. *The Boys* spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff. *Repertory: Prince Charles*

**DOBERMANN (18)**  
Vincent Cassel's born-to-be bad gangster struts and sneers his way through a gleamingly abstracted Paris while Tcheky Karyo's bad-egg cop looks on balefully. It seems that this is what the new French cinema is all about: endless stylised carriage and iconic posing, plus a script that's going nowhere fast. *West End: Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Trocadero*

**THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Swiss Centre*

**ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)**  
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road And local cinemas*

**LITTLE VOICE (15)**  
Holed up in her bedroom, Jane Horrocks is perfecting strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations when she falls in with Michael Caine's sleazy impresario. Where director Mark Herman's last film, *Brassed Off*, was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more witty. But bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvelously weighted turn from Caine push it through to the final curtain. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

**THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)**  
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A lot of colourful duels and clattering action setpieces. *West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI*

*Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

**MEET JOE BLACK (12)**  
Picking his way through Martin Brest's under-developed rehaul of *Death Takes a Holiday* goes Brad Pitt's aquiline Grim Reaper, who gets charpered round the everyday delights of Planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins' dying billionaire. The film has a few neat themes and a reliably solid turn from Hopkins, but it's too much a picture of disparate pieces. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

**MULAN (U)**  
In this animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. It's one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine Local, Acton Park Royal, Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village North, Finchley, Hamersmith Virgin, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Streatham Odeon, Wimbledon Odeon*

**THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End Local, Croydawn Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Finchley Cinesworld the Movies, Warner Village Finchley Road, Harrow Warner Village, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays*

**IT (PI) (15)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema Repertory: Phoenix Cinema*

**THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)**  
Animated feature which comes across as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

**RUSH HOUR (15)**  
Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-and-miss affair. *West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

**THE SIEGE (15)**  
A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, *The Siege* winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. Denzel Washington and Bruce Willis star. *West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea*

**SITCOM (18)**  
In this scattershot satire of middle-class mores, director François Ozon takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. *Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre*

**SNAKE EYES (15)**  
Brian De Palma's Atlantic City-set conspiracy thriller stars Nicolas Cage and Gary Sinise. *Repertory: Prince Charles*

**THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Plaza*

**WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)**  
Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chap who lights out to a cod-Impressionist heaven before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. *West End: Warner Village West End Local, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Newham Showcase*

# THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

## THE FIVE BEST FILMS

**The Dream Life of Angels (18)**  
Erick Zanca's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Eloïse Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive in the drab environs of Lille.

**The Opposite of Sex (18)**  
Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, shooting from the lip and causing all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her mild-mannered brother (Martin Donovan). Director Don Roos's script bristles with acidulous one-liners.

**The Truman Show (PG)**  
Peter Weir's ingenious, unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey, right), it's breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.



**IT (15)**  
Darren Aronofsky's debut, filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indie movie fearlessly combines Hall/Straight Jewish mysticism and nightmarish headcases.

**Antz (PG)**  
Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast features Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely war hero and opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Terrific fun.

ANTHONY QUINN

## THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

**The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's)**  
Triumphant revival of Theatre de Complicite's surreal, funny and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz, shot dead by the Nazis in 1942. *To 20 Feb*

**The Colour of Justice (Tricycle)**  
Enormously potent staged re-enactment of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry (right). It coincides with uproar surrounding the fate of the policemen involved in the case. *To 6 Feb*



**Memory of Water (Vaudeville)**  
Alison Steadman pulls off one of the funniest and truest drama scenes ever in Shelagh Stephenson's fine play about sisters brought back together for their mother's funeral. *To 10 Apr*

**A Month in the Country (RSC, Stratford)**  
Michael Attenborough directs Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgenev's portrait of all-consuming desire. *In rep to 20 Feb*

**Martin Yesterday (Royal Exchange, Manchester)**  
Marianne Elliott directs this sharp new play from the cult Canadian dramatist Brad "Unidentified Human Remains" Fraser. *To 6 Feb*

PAUL TAYLOR

## THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)**  
He lived till 1926. The gardens and ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism (above). *To 18 Apr*



**Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)**  
Photographs 1994-98: wide-view, high-finish, micro-detailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, airport, alpine valley - images filled with more than the eye can see. *To 7 Mar*

**Bridget Riley (Abbott Hall Gallery, Kendal)**  
A small retrospective, spanning Riley's career as top British abstractionist - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art lane, to colour, stripes, diagonals, curves. *To 31 Jan*

**Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)**  
"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot. Goya and Otto Dix. Black-and-white visions from the blackest of times; mass-executions, madness and blood everywhere. *To 20 Mar*

**Willie Doherty (MOMA, Oxford)**  
Contemporary Irish artist, using photos and video to reflect on the imagery of terror and security - the road-block, the surveillance camera, the burnt-out car, the interview in silhouette. *To 4 Apr*

TOM LUBBOCK

## CINEMA WEST END

**NOTTING HILL CORONET**  
(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate Bulworth 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**ODEON CAMDEN TOWN**  
(08705-050007) @ Camden Town 54 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm, 11.10pm The Add House 11.05pm Dobermann 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm Enemy of the State 11.25pm Little Voice 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Practical Magic 12.20pm, 10.45pm The Siege 12.25pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

**ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE**  
(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Class Trip 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm On Casualty in Chancery 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm La Vie Revee des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE**  
(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Elf 3.55pm, 6.20pm The Gownness 1.35pm, 6.20pm On Casualty in Chancery 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm La Vie Revee des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

**ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD**  
(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.40pm x (PI) 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.30pm, 9.35pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

**BARBICAN SCREEN**  
(0171-638 889) @ Barbican Hilary and Jackie 6pm, 8.15pm The Opposite of Sex 8.40pm

**CHELSEA CINEMA**  
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square/Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

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(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Common Bulworth 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Opposite of Sex 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

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(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**CURZON MAYFAIR**  
(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park Corner/Kingsbridge Elizabeth 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

**CURZON SOHO**  
(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Bulworth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm x (PI) 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.45pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

**EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE**  
(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 4pm, 7.45pm, 11.30pm The Prince of Egypt 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 11pm Psycho 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm

**GATE NOTTING HILL**  
(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm

**HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN**  
(0870-907 0718) @ Hammersmith Bulworth 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Meet Joe Black 12.50pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm Practical Magic 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

**RENOIR**  
(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square The Apple (5th) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**RITZY CINEMA**  
(0171-733 2229) BR/Bruton Bulworth 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm Enemy of the State 11.40pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 11.45pm Hideous Kinky 11.45pm Hilary and Jackie 4.20pm, 7pm x O&A with director Andy Tucker and producer Andy Paterson, 10.15pm Little Voice 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm

**METRO**  
(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (5th) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Dobermann 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

## CINEMA EAST END

**ODEON KENSINGTON**  
(08705-050007) @ High Street Kensington Bulworth 12.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm, 12.20am Enemy of the State 3.25pm, 9.15pm, 12.15am Hilary and Jackie 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm, 12.25am Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am Meet Joe Black 11.50am, 3.45pm, 7.40pm, 11.35pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm, 12.20pm The Siege 12.40pm, 6.30pm

**ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE**  
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square The Siege 12.55pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

**ODEON MARBLE ARCH**  
(08705-050007) @ Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm, 12.10am Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Meet Joe Black 12.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 12.10am Practical Magic 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm, 11.45pm Rush Hour 11.30pm The Siege 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 11.55pm

**ODEON MEZZANINE**  
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm

**ODEON SWISS COTTAGE**  
(08705-050007) @ Swiss Cottage Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Hilary and Jackie 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.10pm, 3.50pm, 7.30pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.30pm, 10.15pm, 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

**ODEON WEST END**  
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm, 11.25pm Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm, 11.35pm

**PEPSI IMAX CINEMA**  
(0171-494 4133) @ Piccadilly Circus Everest 9.05pm 15 (IMAX) 12.35pm, 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

**PHOENIX CINEMA**  
(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley Little Voice 2.15pm x (PI) 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

**PLAZA**  
(0250-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus Babe: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.25pm Out of Sight 5.50pm, 8.25pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 8.40pm

**RENOIR**  
(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square The Apple (5th) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**RITZY CINEMA**  
(0171-733 2229) BR/Bruton Bulworth 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm, 11.30pm Enemy of the State 11.40pm Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 11.45pm Hideous Kinky 11.45pm Hilary and Jackie 4.20pm, 7pm x O&A with director Andy Tucker and producer Andy Paterson, 10.15pm Little Voice 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm

**ODEON KENSINGTON**  
(08705-050007) @ High Street Kensington Bulworth 12.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm, 12.20am Enemy of the State 3.25pm, 9.15pm, 12.15am Hilary and Jackie 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm, 12.25am Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm, 12.15am Meet Joe Black 11.50am, 3.45pm, 7.40pm, 11.35pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm, 12.20pm The Siege 12.40pm, 6.30pm

**ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE**  
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square The Siege 12.55pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

**ODEON MARBLE ARCH**  
(08705-050007) @ Marble Arch Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm, 12.10am Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Meet Joe Black 12.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.15pm, 12.10am Practical Magic 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.05pm, 11.45pm Rush Hour 11.30pm The Siege 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm, 11.55pm

**ODEON MEZZANINE**  
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm

**ODEON SWISS COTTAGE**  
(08705-050007) @ Swiss Cottage Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Hilary and Jackie 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.10pm, 3.50pm, 7.30pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.30pm, 10.15pm, 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

**ODEON WEST END**  
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Ronin 2.45pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Something About Mary 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm

**ODEON SWISS COTTAGE**  
(08705-050007) @ Swiss Cottage Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Hilary and Jackie 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.10pm, 3.50pm, 7.30pm Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.30pm, 10.15pm, 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

## CINEMA SOUTH











This have their

Alex Duval's... Journalist... since... the talk... the victims of...

FRIDAY TELEVISION

THE FRIDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 22 January 1999

Man a

Two girls who triggered a nationwide hunt after disappearing on their way to school were reunited with their families yesterday after being found by police.

Just as hope for Charlotte Cullen and Lisa Hoodless had faded, police announced that they had discovered them in a house in Hastings, East Sussex.

The girls were said to be well, though police said they had been "through an ordeal". A man was last night being questioned.

INSIDE THIS SECTION  
The report supporting a continued ban on home based will be published in the next issue.

Masses recruiting... First... placed by Freemasons... Home P5

MINI FOREIGN 12-17 BUSINESS 18  
ABROAD  
Australia... 4.00  
Belgium... 3.00



ROBERT HANKS

TELEVISION REVIEW

FORENSIC SCIENTISTS, delving into crimes in the search for truth and justice, have been a staple of popular television for a long time - remember Jack Klumpner in *Quincy* or the late Martin Gering in *The X-Files*? - and lately they have experienced a surge of popularity, with a series of forensic science in *Dienstadt* (CO), which followed a team of forensic scientists to Kosovo last November. Their mission was to investigate the sites of two massacres in the hope of establishing who was responsible. The first was at George Obdole, where 22 Albanians had been killed - including several children - the second was not far away at Klecka, where Serbian civilians had been lined up and executed. Unsurprisingly, the local Serb authorities, in the person of investigating Judge Dancica Marinkovic, had lots of advice to give and conclusions to offer regarding the Klecka massacre. Charged horses and a couple of alleged Albanian terrorists were brought out for the benefit of the cameras. Meanwhile, most of the Finnish team was being kept out of the country. When they finally did arrive, their mission to exhume corpses at George Obdole, deep in the A-ha-land, was accompanied by the Marinkovic and a corps of heavily armed Serb gendarmes - forensic experts, site cleaners, whose presence at the exhumation was essential. To avoid a bloodbath, the mission was aborted.

In many ways, *Heaven* (BBC2) is a documentary was exactly what the situation was. It was a documentary with its shots of an emotionless Albanian showing off the unmarked graves of the entire family - his three-month-old daughter had survived the massacre only to die on the way to hospital. "There is nothing more I can say about her," said the father. "There is nothing more I can say about her."

And its director for the series was absurd to talk about the Serbs "manipulating" the Finnish mission when all their bustling and obstruction had been caught on camera. The programme found itself with an inadvertently ironic conclusion: Judge Marinkovic was in the news again this week, supervising the removal of bodies after the killings at Brack and again the prime have been fighting for access. You imagine the *Dienstadt* team would have settled for being a little less topical.

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

- 6.00 Business Breakfast** (52990). 7.00 News (12349). 8.00 *Kitty* (S) (730693). 9.45 *The Vanessa Show* (S) (730693). 10.15 *News* (Regional News). 11.25 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 12.00 *Regional News* (S) (730693). 12.15 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 12.30 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 12.45 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 1.00 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 1.15 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 1.30 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 1.45 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 1.55 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 2.00 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 2.15 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 2.30 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 2.45 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 2.55 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 3.00 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 3.15 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 3.30 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 3.45 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 3.55 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 4.00 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 4.15 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 4.30 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 4.45 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 4.55 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 5.00 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 5.15 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 5.30 *Cartoon* (S) (730693). 5.45 *Cartoon* (S) 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